

Step 6 Stepping

Step 6

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults — *without reservations whatever* — has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can — and will, under certain conditions — remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this: “Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own willpower just wouldn’t work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends,

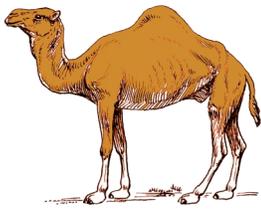
doctors, and clergymen got no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished, It was lifted right out of me.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 63

Tradition 6 Long Form

“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places or recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. — and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. A.A. group can bind itself to no one.”

The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.



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 VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous..

Just as the A.A. Groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act feely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself.

This critical need for Trustee liberty of action raises several important questions. Next to the Conference, A.A.'s Board of Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants that we have, and therefore we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at top effectiveness over the years to come. We shall need to review and perhaps amend somewhat our present methods of choosing Trustees. We shall need to define clearly the several kinds of professional and financial skills that will always be required for a balanced trusteeship. Only by so doing can we permanently insure the Board's capability of future leadership

In order to avoid continuous confusion, it will also be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference and just how they in turn should related themselves to their active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. (including its division of A.A. Publishing) and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., our monthly magazine .



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

Grapevine Online Exclusive



Growing up

Another Fourth Step helps a dad let go of a long-time resentment toward his son

I finished my Fourth Step a month ago. Not for the first time. In my 15 years of sobriety, I have done Step Four formally with a sponsor at least five times, maybe more. I've lost count.

My sponsor nowadays is a Big-Book-thumping alcoholic. So the final product of my Fourth Step looks exactly like the example in the Big Book—resentments, fears, sex—nothing else. There are two main differences. I'm 82 years old so there's nothing about sex, alas! And at the top of each page, I now write a brief prayer: "God, reveal to me the truth."

I remember that the first time I completed a Fourth Step, it included more than 20 resentments. Over the years, one by one, all of these resentments have disappeared and have not been replaced. Such is the miraculous power of the Twelve Steps.

The one resentment that still tormented me involved my son. He's 45 years old and lives 500 miles away. The causes of my resentment and disappointment are many. He affects my pocketbook because he has a good job, yet still asks me often for money. This affects my self-esteem. I feel like a sucker and an enabler. He has never married so I don't have grandchildren, which is a big issue for me. My son is also agnostic. All this makes me sometimes count myself a failure as a parent. OK, I get it. My resentment against my son reveals me to be self-centered and dishonest. It shows that I still want to play God.

On the day I finished my most recent Fourth Step, I took off for a three day AA conference in a neighboring state. I returned home early in the afternoon on a Sunday. I felt an unusual dizziness as I climbed the stairs to my apartment, but it soon passed and I ignored it. As the afternoon progressed, I busied myself with Sunday afternoon tasks, reading a book, paying bills and straightening up my apartment. All the while, the symptoms indicating that there was something seriously wrong intensified and accelerated. Since I was in no pain though, I ignored them.

At about 5:00 in the afternoon, the doorbell rang. Puzzled, I opened the door and there stood my son. I knew he was on vacation from his job in Colorado and I was expecting him to visit later in the week. But here he was. My son promptly discovered that my hot-water heater was not working, so I called the apartment complex maintenance man. Sunday was this man's day off and he lived in a distant part of the city, but he agreed to come at once.

When he arrived, I sprang up from my chair to open the door but halfway there I passed out. My son was right

behind me and kept me from hurting myself when I fell. I regained consciousness in a few seconds. Lying flat on my back, I could see that my son was talking on his cell phone. He had called 911 and had ordered an ambulance. But I didn't want that. "I'm all right," I said, "The excitement is over. Cancel the ambulance."

But my son was determined. At that moment, he was being more adult than I was. The ambulance guys took me to a nearby hospital, where I found out I had a bleeding gastric ulcer and had lost a lot of blood. I was in the hospital eight days. My son, who had literally saved my life, stayed with me the whole time.

My Higher Power had answered my little prayer and then some. In an hour of crisis, he sent my imperfect, agnostic son to help me. The truth had been revealed. My son was loving, caring, loyal, grown-up and decisive. It's amazing how that Fourth Step works.

-- Bob M.

Tulsa, Oklahoma

From the June 2019 magazine.

Group Contributions — May 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	\$60.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$80.00	\$80.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$662.00
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	\$50.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$17.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$200.00	\$850.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$100.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$100.00	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	\$809.27
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$201.55	St Francis	\$0.00	\$780.97
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	\$88.00	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	\$200.00	\$200.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$100.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$88.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Totals	\$530.00	\$4,446.79

**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

July 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

July 21, 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.

T. L. C. GROUP 26th ANNIVERSARY Y'ALL COME & HELP US CELEBRATE



Bar-B-Q with all the Fixings

3 Birthdays	Kelsey J.	1 Year
	Jessie M.	2 Years
	Mary Ann J.	31 Years

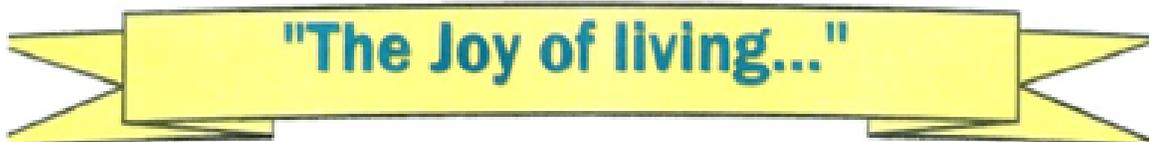
When: 5:30 Friday June 14th 2019

Where: 1st Presbyterian Church

845 Hwy 96 Bus. Silsbee, Texas

6:00pm Bar-B-Q & Fixings

7:00pm Speaker Kelsey J



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

<u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u>	MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
<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.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Sat. 10:00 PM Dance</p> <p>Sun. 10:00 AM AA TBA</p>	<p>2355 I-10 SOUTH</p> <p>1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705</p> <p>877-842-3606</p> <p>ROOM RATE - \$99 PER NIGHT</p> <p>EARLY DEADLINE - 7-26-2019</p>
	<p>ONSITE REGISTRATION</p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 26, 2019! (AA/Al-Anon \$10, teen \$1)</p> <p>Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea. Alateen: \$ 5 ea.</p> <p>Dance only: \$ 5 ea. Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</p> <p>Dance admission included with convention registration</p> <p>**Dance only* tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night</p> <p>**Early registrants qualify to win one set of convention CDs**</p>

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

<p>Name 1: _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen¹</p> <p>Check (if needed): <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need</p>	<p>Name 2: _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen¹</p> <p>Check (if needed): <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need</p>												
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<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____												

1 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, increases convention expenses, hospitality available, scholarships - that we may Serve and Carry the Message.



Happy Birthday To You!!!

New Life Group
June 30th

Eat at 7:00PM / Meet at 8:00PM
James S. 30 years

6th Step Principle

Willingness

6th Promise

That feeling of uselessness
and self-pity will
disappear.

