

## Step 7

**“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”**

*Since this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it means to us.*

*Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.'s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.'s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven't much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it,*

*they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.*

*Humility, as a word and as an ideal, has a very bad time of it in our world. Not only is the idea misunderstood; the word itself is often intensely disliked. Many people haven't even a nodding acquaintance with humility as a way of life. Much of the everyday talk we hear, and a great deal of what we read, highlights man's pride in his own achievements.*

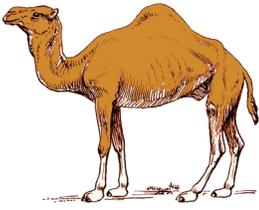
*With great intelligence, men of*

*science have been forcing nature to disclose her secrets. The immense resources now being harnessed promise such a quantity of material blessings that many have come to believe that a man-made millennium lies just ahead. Poverty will disappear, and there will be such abundance that everybody can have all the security and personal satisfactions he desires. The theory seems to be that once everybody's primary instincts are satisfied, there won't be much left to quarrel about.*

## Tradition 7 Long Form

**“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligations whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A. A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”**

*Self-supporting alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that's what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that A.A. has wrought in all of us. Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can't cure. Always, we've had our hands out. Time out of mind we've been dependent upon somebody, usually money-wise. When a society composed entirely of alcoholics says it's going to pay it's bills, that's really news.*



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 VII

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section*

This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services, while on the other hand we find that A.A.'s General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them—practically speaking.

This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate—viz., the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves. Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking it has all of the ultimate rights and powers that it may ever need.

When we reflect that our Trustees have no salaried financial interest in their posts, we can be quite sure that such a Board would never think of legally contesting the clear and sustained will of the Conference Delegates and the A.A. areas they represent.



# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

## Grapevine Online Exclusive



*From the July 2019 magazine*

### A front-row seat

*Helping other guys not only keeps him sober, but gives him the gift to see God change lives*

I've been working with other alcoholics since I was 10 months sober. They teach me more about my powerlessness over alcohol than any amount of Step work I ever did with my sponsors. I believe a tremendous amount of spiritual energy is released during a Twelfth Step experience when a sober drunk shares his recovery with one who is newly sober, or even one who is still drinking.

One of my experiences was with Danny. His girlfriend's dad, Dave, was a member of my men's meeting. Dave called me one evening to say that Danny had beaten up his daughter and ended up in the hospital after he nearly overdosed on alcohol and methadone.

Dave asked if I wanted to go visit Danny on a Twelfth Step call at the local emergency room. Dave snuck me into a hallway off the emergency room waiting area, where Danny lay on a gurney. He was drinking something through a straw from a tumbler filled with charcoal, which is a common practice for a person who has just had his stomach pumped.

I started talking to Danny about my own drinking and progressed through my story to recovery and sobriety. I gave him all my "best stuff." When I was done, his response floored me: "I

know all that stuff, but the only thing I want to do when I get out of here is to go buy a six-pack."

Another time, I was sitting in a men's meeting. A guy was going on about lingering just a bit too long at the end of the liquor aisle at the supermarket. For the first time in my 11 years of sobriety, I got super thirsty. I actually could taste the Scotch and feel the burn at the back of my throat. Oh my God, what do I do? I thought. Then I remembered reading that the old-timers in AA would find a newcomer to talk to when they felt like they were in danger of drinking.

Fortunately, there was a new guy named Eric in the meeting that night. "Hey, George, I'll give your guy a ride home," I said. George had picked Eric up at the prison from which he had just been paroled for the umpteenth time. So I gave Eric a ride to his mom's house, but we went to my house first and talked for over an hour.

By that time, I was no longer thirsty, but Eric had a bottle of vodka stashed at his mom's that was talking to him louder than I was. For the next 13 years, I worked with Eric between his many stints in prison. He would write to me from "inside," and the envelopes were decorated in pencil with his phenomenal artwork.

We went together to the 1995 International Convention in San Diego and to dozens and dozens of meetings over the years. Through all this time, I had come to really love Eric. One time after visiting him in a mental health crisis house, I went to hug him goodbye and found I couldn't let go. I had a feeling that this might be the last time I would see him alive.

A few weeks later I got a phone call while at work. As soon as the words "Eric" and "passed away" left his sister-in-law's lips, I collapsed. My legs buckled under me and I sat there on the floor crying. People around me rushed to see what was wrong. I said my friend had just died and a woman who was doing some volunteer work that week knelt down beside me. I told her I'd been trying to help this

guy get sober for years.

"He doesn't have to drink anymore," she told me. What I didn't know was that the woman had eight months of sobriety in AA. God sent me the one person in the building who really understood what was happening.

By the grace of God, not all Twelfth Step experiences end badly. Sometimes I get the inestimable gift of a front-row seat to watch God change a human life.

I started working with Mike while he was still in the Navy. His drinking and drugging had left him morally and spiritually bankrupt and emotionally shattered. He was devastated when his wife left him and took their sons with her to live in her mother's house 2,000 miles away on the East coast.

At one particular meeting, when he was just a few days sober, Mike was called on to share. He kept looking at me with an expression I can only describe as "lost." Despite that look, we got to work on the Steps immediately. Over the course of the next few months, he grew in self-confidence and grace. He finished the Steps with me, having made all his important amends, including to his now-ex-wife. Somewhere about three years or so sober, he got a Christmas card from her that wished him well and said, "With the way you've turned out, maybe it isn't such a bad thing that the boys take after you."

Mike has recently marked the occasion of his 16th "birthday" in AA and I have sent him the coin my sponsor gave me when I turned 16. To quote a member whose story is in the Big Book ... "I've never had it so good."

-- Butch M.

Santee, California

## Group Contributions — June 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)	\$0.00	\$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	\$60.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$17.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$1,250.00</b>	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	\$355.00	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	\$0.00	\$200.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$100.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$88.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$5,211.79</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

## ***Announcements***

### **Next District 90 GSR Meeting**

**August 4, 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.

### ***West End Group 59th Anniversary***

1235 Crockett Street

July 27, 2019

Come out and enjoy food, fun, fellowship, and great *Speakers*

*9:30am regular meeting*

*11:00am West End history*

*11:30am Alanon Speaker (TBA)*

*1:00pm AA Speaker Marion C. 33 years (3rd Tradition Group)*

*2:00pm Food & Fellowship (Entertainment) / 3:30pm Oldtimers Meeting*

*5:00pm Red Ball Meeting*

*6:00pm Birthday Celebration*

### ***St. Francis Group***

Eating / Speaker Meeting

Saturday July 20, 2019

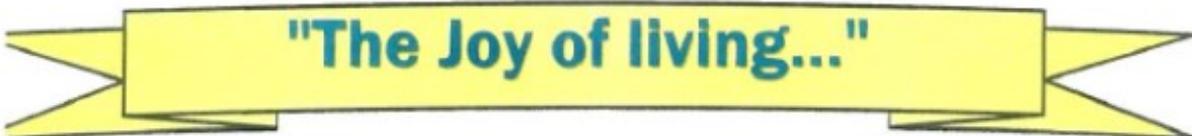
6:00 pm Fellowship / 6:30 pm Eat

( *Pot luck, bring your own favorite dish* )

7:30 pm Speaker: Keith D. from Dallas

Wesley United Methodist Church

Corner of Folsom & Major drive



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

<u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u>	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																																					
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 15%;">Fri. 08:00 PM</td><td style="width: 10%;">AA</td><td>Brenda S. Dallas, TX</td></tr> <tr><td>Fri. 10:00 PM</td><td>AA</td><td>C.T. Missouri City, TX.</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat. 8:30 AM</td><td>AFG</td><td>Four Faces of Al-Anon</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat. 10:00 AM</td><td>AA</td><td>Cory W. Conroe, TX</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat. 01:00 PM</td><td>Alanon</td><td>Mattie T. Missouri City, TX</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat. 02:15 PM</td><td>Alateen</td><td>TBA</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat. 03:00 PM</td><td>AA</td><td>Corey W. (<i>workshop</i>)</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat. 04:15 PM</td><td>AA</td><td>Old Timers</td></tr> <tr><td>Sat. 08:00 PM</td><td>AA</td><td>Angie P, Cincinnati, OH.</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>Sat. 10:00 PM Dance</td></tr> <tr><td>Sun. 10:00 AM</td><td>AA</td><td>TBA</td></tr> </table>	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. ( <i>workshop</i> )	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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ONSITE REGISTRATION</b></p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 26, 2019! (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3) Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 16, 2019 at 2:00 PM</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%;">AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea.</td><td style="width: 50%;">Alateen: \$ 5 ea.</td></tr> <tr><td>Dance only: \$ 5 ea.</td><td>Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</td></tr> </table> <p>Dance admission included with convention registration  <i>**"Dance only" tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night.</i>  <i>**Early registrants qualify to win one set of convention CDs**</i></p>	AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea.	Alateen: \$ 5 ea.	Dance only: \$ 5 ea.	Coffee: Incl. w/ registration
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Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social

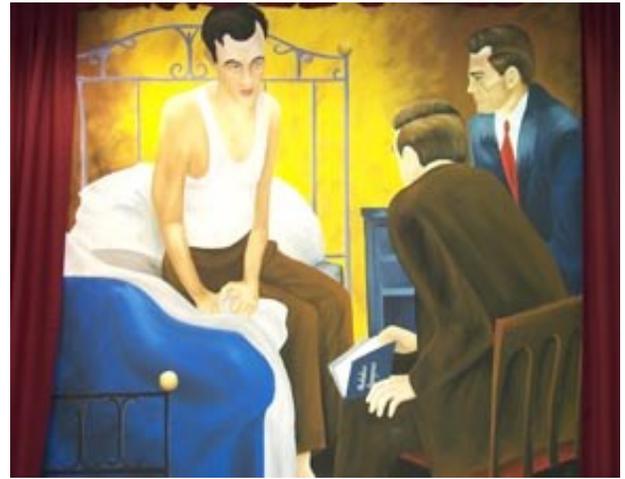
<p>Name 1: _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen<sup>1</sup></p> <p><small>Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need</small></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"/> Alateen<sup>1</sup></p> <p><small>Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need</small></p>												
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*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/ones, convention exp. hospitality available scholarships - that we may serve and carry the message.*



Happy Birthday To You!!!

MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS,  
GROUP NEWS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS TO THE  
NINTH DISTRICT INTERGROUP



**7th Step Principle**

**Humility**

**7th Promise**

**We will lose interest in  
selfish things and gain  
interest in our fellows.**

