

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 VIII

**“The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”**

“Since our Trustees bear the primary responsibility for the good conduct of all our world service affairs, this discussion deals with the basic concepts and methods by which they can best discharge their heavy obligations. Long experience has not proved that our Board as a whole must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger and more serious questions of policy, finance, group relations, public relations and leadership that constantly confront it. In *these more critical matters*, the Board must of course function with great care and deliberation. Here the Board is expected skillfully to *plan, manage, and execute*.

It follows, therefore, that the close attention of the Board to such larger problems must not be subject to constant distraction and interference. Our Trustees, as a body, cannot be burdened with a mass of lesser matters; they must not concern themselves with the endless questions and difficulties which arise daily, weekly and monthly in the routine conduct of the World Service Office and of our publishing enterprises. In these areas the Board cannot possibly manage and conduct in detail; it must delegate its executive function.

Here the Board’s attitude has to be that of custodial oversight; it cannot be the executive. Hence the Trustees are the guarantors of the good management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. They discharge their custodial obligation by electing the directors of these services, a part of whom must always be Trustees.”

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 31 of the Concepts Section*

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

**To Receive Grapevine go the website and order**

*~ A local AA member shares a part of her story ~*



I came to AA as a significant other wanting to “be a part of” my partner’s life. Now, I did not remember, the Big Book says I can’t remember even a week, that a friend of mine had invited me to an AA meeting 10 years earlier and I decided AA wasn’t for me. I was totally taken aback when a dear friend of mine invited me up to the podium to share. I thought, while I was walking up to the podium, “I don’t know why she’s calling me up. I’m not an alcoholic.” I went up to the podium, it wasn’t hard because I had not awakened to the reality of alcoholism in my own life at that time, introduced myself and very proudly announced that I was not an alcoholic. I went on to state; “the 12 Steps would work in every area of our life.” And that is a true statement. No one started booing me or shouting “liar, liar ketch your pants on fire.” Instead, after the meeting was over, a friend in the Fellowship walked up and thanked me for sharing and told me to please feel welcome to come and be a part of any meeting I so chose to.

Well, a few weeks later, on a Saturday morning, after a dive group meeting one Friday night, my partner said to me; “You know if the truth were known, I would appreciate it if you would not drink when you’re with me. You’re not your sweet self when you drink.” I felt a ping sting in my heart and what came out of my mouth was; “Of course, I won’t drink for you.” There are no words that can describe what happened the instance those

## *I didn’t know I was an Alcoholic* **A Life Reclaimed**

words came out of my mouth. A war began on the inside of me as I had never experienced before. I had really set myself up for failure, not even realizing it at the time. Fear reared it’s ugly claws stronger than I had ever felt it before, and I had lived most of my life in Fear. I couldn’t tell my partner what was going on because then he would know I am an alcoholic and he would drop me like a hot potato. There was only one thing for me to do. Being the brilliant person that I am, I came up with a plan!!! At the time, it sounded, between my alcoholic ears, like a good plan. After all, I had sat in the rooms of AA with him for several months now. I had heard many different aspects of the disease as members of the Fellowship shared their experience, strength and hope. So, this plan should work. I told myself, “Remember, AA is a program of suggestion so I can certainly try a different plan.”

At this particular group, they offered chips for length of sobriety. When they got to the nine month chip, they said; “Nine month chip, heavy metal, feels good in the pocket.” This was my answer!!! I would wait until I had nine months. I would go up and get that “Nine month chip, heavy metal, feels good in the pocket.” Everything would be great. He would know I was serious about not drinking and we would live happily ever after!!! I am pretty sure, you know that did not happen. What did happen is two weeks before that nine months of utter war on the inside, what I called being sober, my life fell apart and I drank into incomprehensible demoralization like never before. I walked around in a stupor, it was actu-

ally what we call a blackout for several days. People tell me they couldn’t even recognize me on a certain level during that time, even at work where I continued to function at my duties quite well.

And then, an amazing thing happened. We call it in the program as “having a moment of clarity.” I was driving around town this particular Saturday morning, July 28<sup>th</sup>, feeling totally lost in a town which I had been raised. I came to a red light at the intersection of Langham and Washington Blvd. and, as I sat waiting for the light to turn green, I heard a voice on the inside of me say, “I’m an alcoholic and I need help.” When the light turned green, I turned right and went to my best friend’s place of business and told him what had just happened. Being in the program, he brought me to an AA meeting that night. That was the night I came all the way in to AA and sat all the way down. I took a Desire Chip, got a sponsor, read the Big Book, worked the steps and started working with others. That was the day I conceded to my inmost being that I am an alcoholic. That was the day my life began to take on a new and different form. That was the day I began the journey of a new birth, a life free of abusing alcohol for every life whim. The day my life began to be reclaimed!!!

Julian L.

## Group Contributions — July 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	\$140.00	\$140.00
Bolivar	\$50.00	\$50.00	Mustard Seed	\$402.00	\$1,064.00
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	\$40.00	\$100.00
Downtown	\$68.74	\$85.74	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$240.00	\$1,490.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$100.00
Fresh Start	\$50.00	\$150.00	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>\$990.74</b>	<b>\$6,202.53</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*

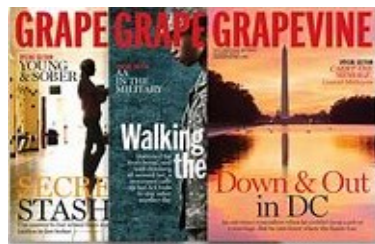
**Next District 90 GSR Meeting**  
**September 1, 2019 At 2:00 PM**  
**West End Group**  
**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

**Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting**  
**October 20, 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.

## **Recycle the Grapevine**



**\*\*\* Please bring your back issues to the CFC table at the District 90 Convention \*\*\***

**Thank You**



**Come Celebrate**  
**“The Sunlight of the Spirit”**  
**Mid-County Group 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**  
**August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**908 Boston Ave. Nederland, Tx. 77627**

**9am Donut Meeting “OD”**

**10am Registration**

**Noon Speaker – Bella L. – West-End Group, Beaumont Tx.**

**1pm Lunch Served**

**3pm Alanon Speaker**

**4pm Washer Board Tournament, prizes awarded**

**6pm Dinner Served**

**8pm Speaker – Art G. – Buna Group**

**9:15 Raffle**

**Games and Bouncy House Splash Pad for the kids.**



# Happy Birthday To You!!!

August 25

Celebrant - Joe M. 23 years

Speaker - Kathy T. Fellowship

Pizza at 6 furnished by group

Birthday at 6:30

Speaker at 7

Stepping Stones would like to include, in it's monthly issue, a personal story from District 90 AA group members.

So, in order to get this rolling, we NEED stories from members. Please see our first story on Page 3.

If, in the awesome event, we receive more than one story, we will prioritize by date received and will run them in the next issue until they are all published.

A friendly reminder: Short story 500 -750 words, no profanity, experience, strength and hope, as it relates to recovery from Alcoholism.

Maybe, you want to do this as a Group project and choose a person from your Group each month to submit a story.

Please e-mail us: [steppingstones@aabeaumont.org](mailto:steppingstones@aabeaumont.org), with your story. Or, drop off at our office Monday thru Friday, 10am-3pm.

Thanks Stepping Stones



## 8th Step Principle

### Reflection

## Brotherly Love

## 8th Promise

Self-seeking will slip  
away.

