

Step 1

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us.

No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now becomes the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our

bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.

But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

We know that little good can come to any alcoholic who joins A.A. unless he has

first accepted his devastating weakness and all its consequences. Until he so humbles himself; his sobriety—if any—will be precarious. Of real happiness he will find none at all. Proved beyond doubt by an immense experience, this is one of the facts of A.A. life.

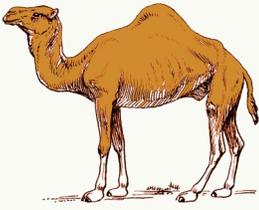
This principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flourished.

Tradition 1

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare should come first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.”

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our

Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, “What a great thing A.A. might have been!” Does this mean some will anxiously ask, “that in A.A. the individual doesn’t count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it?”



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 I

“The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services — those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our Society to function as a whole. The groups assumed that responsibility at the St. Louis International Convention of 1955. There, on behalf, of Dr. Bob, the Trustees and A.A.’s old-time leaders, I made the transfer of world service responsibility to our entire Fellowship.

Why, and by what authority was this done? There were reasons of stark necessity for it, and there were further reasons which have to do with A.A.’s fundamental structure and tradition.

By the year 1948 our necessities had become clear enough. Ten years earlier—in 1938—helped by dedicated friends, Dr. Bob and I had commenced work upon a world service structure. Our first step was the creation of a trusteeship for A.A. as a whole. We called this body the Alcoholic Foundation; and in 1954 it was re-named The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This trusteeship was designed to inaugurate and maintain all of those special services for A.A. as a whole that could not well be performed by single groups or areas. We envisioned the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling the large numbers of pleas for help that might follow in the wake of national and international publicity. We thought in terms of aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups. We thought there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translations of our literature into other languages.

By 1950 nearly all of these dreams for world service had come true. In the dozen years following the creation of The Foundation, A.A. membership had jumped from 50 to 100,000. The A.A. Traditions had been written and adopted. A confident unity had pretty much replaced fear and doubt and strife. Our services had unquestionably played a large and critical role in this unfoldment. World service, therefore, had taken on crucial meaning for A.A.’s future. If these vital agencies were to collapse or bog down, our unity within and the carrying of our message to innumerable alcoholics without, would suffer serious and perhaps irreparable damage. Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood that they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship. Among the A.A. groups it had been proven that we could survive great strain and stress. But could we stand heart failure at our world center?

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 4 of the Concepts Section

AA GRAPEVINE



<http://www.aagrapevine.org>

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Magazine

From the January 2020 magazine.

What's Best for the Group

A member in Oregon shares her thoughts about one of our most important Traditions

After seven years in AA, I finally feel like I'm starting to acquire a working knowledge of this vital principle, Tradition One. This Tradition makes clear that the welfare of the group should come before any one member. The group comes before me, before you, before the old-timer, and yes, even before the newcomer. Who knew? Not me.

Even though I thought I had been practicing the First Tradition for a while now, I was actually only understanding it in my head. The principle was not yet in my heart. Because I knew the AA literature and could even recite the long form, I was following the technicalities of the Tradition—the "letter of the law," rather than the spirit of the principle. Over time, I found I was never truly able to practice any of the other Traditions until this particular principle really had sunk into my heart.

I'll give an example. I voted at my home group that the secretary position only have a 90-day sobriety requirement. Why? Because service keeps us sober, and the newcomer could benefit most from getting into service. Seems logical, no?

Then for years following that group conscience decision, whenever our group had an election and there were two members standing for the same position, I would always, always vote for the person who I thought needed a service position the most. I would support the person who I believed could benefit the most from the position, rather than the person who I thought could be of the most benefit to the group as a whole, the person who was the most qualified.

As a result, more often than not it was the whole group that suffered when we voted that way, when we elected someone who might not be qualified.

Today I see that when the AA group isn't strong, we lose effectiveness. I learned that we are able to help more people when we have an effective meeting.



So once again, more has been revealed to me. Today I will vote for someone who I feel has a strong working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions, the one who is best qualified and who I think will be the most responsible and reliable for the job. Because ultimately, that is the way everyone else will best be served—including the newcomer.

-- C.B.

Bend, Ore.

Group Contributions — December, 2019

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$400.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$60.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$80.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$140.00
Bolivar	\$25.00	\$75.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$1,526.00
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	\$20.00	\$150.00
Downtown	\$14.52	\$100.26	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$2,130.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$100.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$200.00	Pin Oak Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$2.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$355.00	Serenity	\$412.66	\$1,221.93
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$201.55	St Francis	\$300.00	\$1,380.97
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$32.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$574.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$184.40	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	\$400.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$150.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$278.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$50.00	\$50.00	Totals	\$822.18	\$9,791.11

**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.

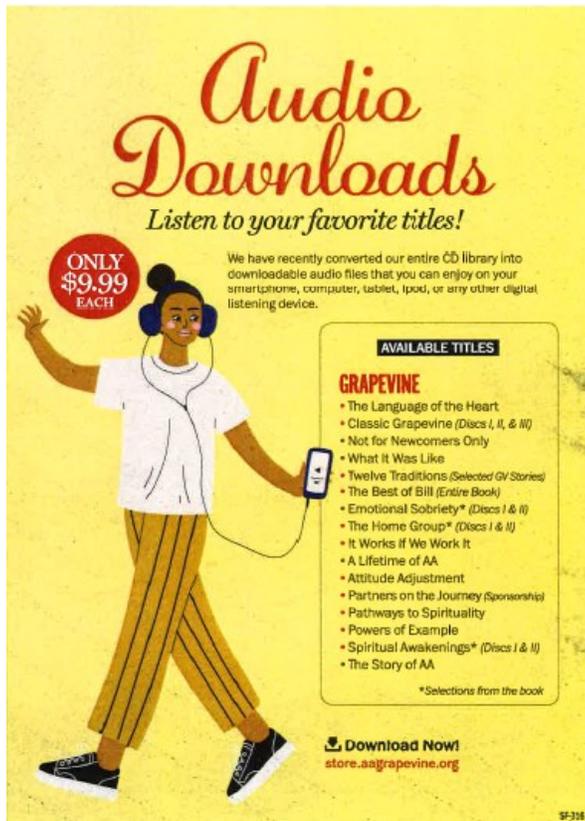
Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting
February 2, 2020 At 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting
January 19, 2020 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.



Audio Downloads

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AVAILABLE TITLES

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- The Language of the Heart
- Classic Grapevine (Discs I, II, & III)
- Not for Newcomers Only
- What It Was Like
- Twelve Traditions (Selected GV Stories)
- The Best of Bill (Entire Book)
- Emotional Sobriety* (Discs I & II)
- The Home Group* (Discs I & II)
- It Works if We Work It
- A Lifetime of AA
- Attitude Adjustment
- Partners on the Journey (Sponsorship)
- Pathways to Spirituality
- Powers of Example
- Spiritual Awakenings* (Discs I & II)
- The Story of AA

*Selections from the book

Download Now!
store.aagrapevine.org

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TEMAS DISPONIBLES

LA VIÑA

- Historia de la Viña (Discos I, II y III)
- Lo Mejor de Bill en CD
- La Historia de AA
- Despertares Espirituales (Discos I y II)
- Las Doce Tradiciones (Discos I y II)
- El Grupo Base CD (Discos I y II)

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tienda.aagrapevine.org



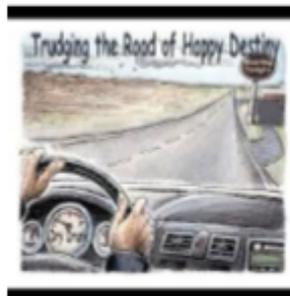
SETA Convention 2020

"Give freely of what you find and join us." AA p.164

January 24th - 26th



GSO Speaker: Clement C AA speakers : Danny D-El Segundo CA, Quincy W-Agoura Hills CA, Karl M-Covina CA, Micki B-Bryan, TX, and Multilingual TBA Al-Anon and Alateen Speakers: Mattie T., Sugar Land TX, Alateen Speaker TBA



"We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny."
— The Big Book

Name _____

Name _____

Badge Name _____

Badge Name _____

Home Group _____

Home Group _____

Email Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

Check one: AA Al-Anon Alateen (free)

Check one: AA Al-Anon Alateen (free)

TYPE	QTY.	TOTAL
Early Registration \$12(deadline 12/31) Onsite/After Early Registration \$15		\$
Coffee Badge \$5		\$
Scholarship Donation		\$
Total Amount Enclosed	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	\$

Hotel Information: Moody Gardens, 1 Hope Boulevard, Galveston, (888)388-8484, Room Rate \$129 per night. Deadline 12/31/19

Activities Entertainment Food Fun

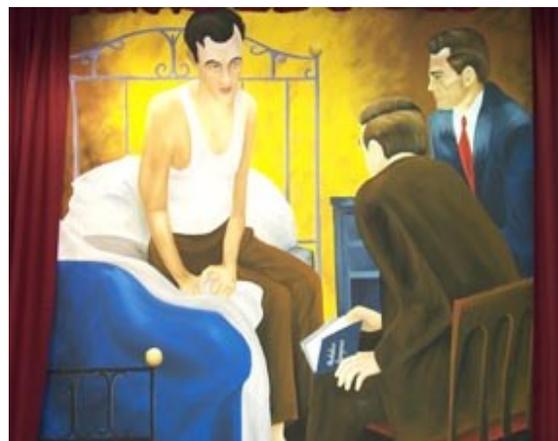
Website: www.setaconvention.org

Email: 2020@aa-seta.org

Mail: SETA 2020 Convention, PO BOX 301, Pearland TX 77588

1st Promise

**We are going to know
a new freedom and a
new happiness**



1st Step Principle

Honesty



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2020

