

Step 2

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

The moment they read Step Two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, “Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that our lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us *won't* believe in God, others can't, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you've got us over the bar-

rel, all right — but where do we go from here?”

Let's look first at the case of the one who says he won't believe — the belligerent one. He is in a state of mind which can be described only as savage. His whole philosophy of life, in which he so gloried, is threatened. It's bad enough, he thinks, to admit alcohol has him down for keeps. But now, still smarting from that admission, he is faced with something really impossible. How he does cherish the thought that man, risen so majestically from a single cell in the primordial ooze, is the spearhead of evolution and therefore

the only god that his universe knows! Must he renounce all this to save himself?

At this juncture, his A.A. sponsor usually laughs. This, the newcomer thinks, is just about the last straw. This is the beginning of the end. And so it is: the beginning of the end of his old life, and the beginning of his emergence into a new one. His sponsor probably says, “Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think. At least I've found it so.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
Pages 25,26

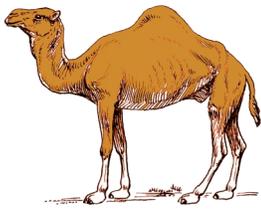
Tradition 2

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servant's they do not govern”

Where does A.A. get its direction? Who runs it? This, too is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into outer darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, “This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere.” These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A. A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, “Yes! it definitely does.” The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of A.A. history, and soon have the solid facts.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Page 132



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.

Inside this issue:

Step 2—Tradition 2	1
Concept 2	2
Stories (Grapevine)	3
Contributions	4
District	5
Event Flyer	6
2nd Promise, Principle International Convention	7

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.

Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from our readers is encouraged. Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected. ■

Concept II

When, in **1955**, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article **12** of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section

It is self-evident that the thousands of A.A. groups and the many thousands of A.A. members, scattered as they are all over the globe, cannot *of themselves* actually manage and conduct our manifold world services. The group conscience is out there among them, and so are the needed funds. The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme. They have all of the final responsibility and authority that there is. The operation is really theirs; they really own it. This has been true ever since the groups took over from the founders and old-timers at St. Louis in **1955**.

But an ultimate authority and responsibility in the A.A. groups for world services — if that is all there were to it — could not amount to anything. Nothing could be accomplished on that basis alone. In order to get effective action, the groups must delegate the actual operational authority to chosen service representatives who are fully empowered to speak and to act for them. The group conscience of A.A. could not be heard unless a properly chosen Conference were fully trusted to speak for it respecting most matters of world service. Hence the principle of amply delegated authority and responsibility to “trusted servants” must be implicit from the top to the bottom of our active structure of service. This is the clear implication of A.A.’s Tradition Two.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section

AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

From the February 2020 magazine.

I Cried Almost Every Day

A mother wraps herself up in every AA tool she can after the tragic loss of her husband

I want to tell you about how I stayed sober and survived the most horrific time of my life with the help of my Higher Power, AA, my sponsor and my fellow AA members.

I'm a long-time, sober member of AA. In the fall, more than four years ago, I got devastating news that my husband of 30 years was murdered in the wee hours of the morning while he was at an ATM machine. In that moment, my life as I knew it changed forever.

The pain was more than I could handle. I actually wanted God to take my life. Then I realized that this was selfish since I had grandchildren and two grown daughters who were devastated and needed their mother and grandmother. They could not handle any more pain by losing me. One of my daughters was seriously ill and the other was having trouble with drugs and alcohol. Watching my daughters suffer and being powerless over the situation was the hardest thing I've ever had to deal with.

Outside help was offered to me, but I decided to stick close to AA and the God of my understanding. While I did eventually seek the help of outside

resources, there was very little available to me. I felt like I was the only person going through the reality of having a spouse murdered. I know that my situation is not entirely unique, nevertheless it is not a common thing to go through.

I believe that my Higher Power, the strong foundation I had in AA and taking the Steps with my sponsor are responsible for me staying sober. I prayed daily. I read the Big Book and meditated to the best of my ability. I wrote and shared my feelings with my sponsor and close AA friends and sponsees. I was very diligent in doing this. I attended AA meetings regularly. I also exercised to take better care of my health.

My feelings were unbearable at times, but I had been taught to "feel the feelings" and not drink over them. My fears often overwhelmed me, so I made a list of my fears, shared them and asked God to remove them and direct my attention to what he would have me be. My grief knew no bounds. I cried most every day. My sponsor and friends were there for me. I sponsored many women. Except for a brief urge here and there, I had no real desire to drink.

It was almost eight months before the police arrested the people responsible for my husband's murder. My AA friends attended my husband's memorial service, and provided food and a listening ear any time I needed it. One of my dear friends and back-up sponsor



went to court with me and even gave me a Grapevine book called No Matter What, filled with stories by AA members about how they got through tough times sober.

Three years later, God gave me a new husband in AA who walked with me through the trial. He was and is a special gift from God and AA.

It took more than four years to bring those responsible to justice. During the waiting period, which felt like being in a black tunnel, I worked tirelessly with other AA members who were suffering terrible losses. This helped me cope with my own pain. I realize that I still need much healing, but I have the willingness to grow and I have my Higher Power to help me.

-- Anonymous

Victorville, Calif.

Group Contributions — January 2020

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	\$402.00	\$402.00
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	\$20.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$26.90	\$26.90	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	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fannett Grace	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$0.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$181.00	\$181.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$629.90	\$629.90

**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

March 1, 2020 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

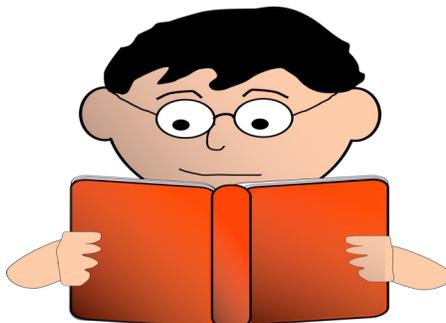
April 19, 2020 At 2:00 PM

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.

**MAIL RECIPIENT PLEASE MAKE THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF STEPPING STONES AVAILABLE TO YOUR GROUP**



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS TEXAS STATE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 74th ANNUAL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CONVENTION

JUNE 12-14, 2020

FORT WORTH, TEXAS



A VISION FOR YOU

**HILTON FORT WORTH · 815 MAIN ST, FORT WORTH, TX 76102
PHONE: (817) 870-2100 · ROOM RATES \$ 139.00**



SPEAKERS:

- AA:** Beth H. - Cary, NC
- AA:** Adam T. - Santa Monica, CA
- AA:** Amy D. - Louisville, KY
- AA:** Victor V. - Springdale, AK.
- Al-Anon:** Larcene G. - Hawthorn, CA
- AA:** GSO Speaker - Rick W. - NY, NY

ALSO:

- ★ **Al Anon Luncheon**
- ★ **Banquet Dinner Sat. Night**
- ★ **Saturday Night Dance**
- ★ **Workshop - TBA**
- ★ **Archives Room**

More information at txaaconvention.org



Regional and Local Forums

Regional Forums originated in 1975 at the suggestion of Dr. Jack Norris, then Chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. They were to be weekend sharing and informational sessions designed to help the General Service Board, A.A. World Services, Inc., the Grapevine Corporate Board, the Grapevine Staff, and the General Service Office Staff stay in touch with A.A. members, trusted servants and newcomers to service throughout the A.A. service structure.



The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme "Love and Tolerance is our Code." A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.'s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit.

We know many are excited about the International Convention and eager for detailed information. As the time gets closer, additional information about the Convention and Detroit, our host city, will be provided.

This website will be updated as more information becomes available. Also watch for articles in our quarterly news bulletin, Box 4-5-9, which is mailed to the general service representative of every group in the U.S. and Canada listed with G.S.O. and is also posted on the website.

Registration forms will be mailed in August 2019 to all G.S.R.s, central offices, intergroups and international G.S.O.s. Online registration will be available September 9, 2019, on aa.org. Advanced registration for the convention between September 9, 2019 and April 14, 2020 will be \$115.00 (USD) per attendee. Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00 (USD) per attendee. For further information please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on this same page.

We look forward to seeing you in Detroit!



2nd Step Principle

Hope

2nd Promise

We will not regret the past nor wish to close the door on it.



**We are not a
glum lot.**