

Step 8

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”

“Steps Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.

This is a very large order. It is a task which we may perform with increasing skill, but never really finish. Learning how to live in the greatest peace, partnership, and

brotherhood with all men and women, of whatever description, is a moving and fascinating adventure. Every A.A. has found that he can make little headway in this new adventure of living until he first backtracks and really makes an accurate and unsparing survey of the human wreckage he has left in his wake. To a degree, he has already done this when taking moral inventory, but now the time has come when he ought to redouble his efforts to see how many people he has hurt, and in what ways. This reopening of emotional wounds, some old, some perhaps forgotten, and some still painfully

fester, will at first look like a purposeless and pointless piece of surgery. But if a willing start is made, then the great advantages of doing this will so quickly reveal themselves that the pain will be lessened as one obstacle after another melts away.

These obstacles, however, are very real. The first, and one of the most difficult, has to do with forgiveness. The moment we ponder a twisted or broken relationship with another person, our emotions go on the defensive.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 77-78

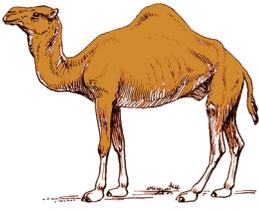
Tradition 8 Long Form

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.”

“ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words, “Freely ye have received, freely give.” we have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world’s best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: Our single purpose has been defeated.

Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an A.A. talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single newcomer, it can have a very bad effect on him, too. The money motive compromised him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few A.A.’s have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 166



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.”

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 31 of the Concepts Section

“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



My Last One

Sneaking, lying, crashing in the tub and passing out under his desk. This is one he never wants to forget

I've been told that if you don't remember your last drink, you probably haven't had it yet. I don't know if that's true, but I remember mine well. And while the last drink I do remember may not be the last drink I'll ever have, I can say with relative certainty that I won't be having one today.

My last alcoholic bender began on January 9, 2014, when I guzzled vodka from a two-liter bottle. This bottle had patiently waited for me in the trunk of my car, which was parked at the airport for several days while I was away on a business trip. That evening would culminate in a series of events so painful that it would alter my perception of what I was willing and able to do to change my life.

I drove home from the airport that day with a headache so severe I could barely see. Arriving home, I sheepishly greeted my wife before rushing to the pool room in the back of the house to grab a beer in a feeble attempt to mask the liquor on my breath. My wife's silent glare telegraphed her extreme disappointment. She had had enough of this insanity and we both knew it.

I carried my things up the stairs and placed the beer on the desk in my office. Checking over my shoulder, I snuck the remaining vodka out of my messenger bag and onto a bookshelf inside my office closet—out of plain sight but within reach.

As I slumped into my office chair and slid into yet another evening of sneaking more drinks and hiding from my wife, the thought occurred to me that this had to stop, but that thought died just about as soon as the next sip hit my lips.

I have a hazy recollection of downing several more beers and the remainder of that vodka. There are some hazy flashbacks of a sharp exchange of words with my wife. I vaguely remember thinking I needed to leave but not knowing how or where I'd go and then somehow falling into the tub in the upstairs bathroom. Then I see another flash of me pulling the shower curtain down around me as I fell, and then nothing.

I came to on the floor of my office, under my desk. Morning light streamed in through the blinds as my wife stood over me. I recognized that she had been talking for several minutes, but her words fell only on my unconscious ears. That is until she spoke the two words I knew were coming for quite a while. "I'm leaving," she said, and did just that.

In my hungover haze, I wasn't quite sure if she meant leaving for now, for work or forever. I lay there under my desk for a long time. My head was pounding, and I felt utterly defeated. I finally made it to my feet, but my ringing phone pulled me back under the desk.

"Hey, Mike," a voice said. "How are you?" There was a long pause while my fogged brain tried to identify the voice.

"Gene. It's Gene, Mike," he said, breaking the silence. "I just wanted to see how you're making out—how are you?" I had met Gene about a year earlier during a short bout of sobriety. He was sober too and we knew a lot of the same people. I paused because I was wrestling with the thought of letting someone else know how desperate my situation had become. I thought, Do I let him know? Can I get honest with another human being?

The moment I received that call was quite possibly the lowest point in my life. I don't recall ever feeling worse than I did in those few moments, nor have I felt that way since. The religious

or spiritual among you will struggle less with this next statement, but I'll make no apologies to those of you who are neither. I genuinely believe that something more powerful than human power intervened in my life at that moment. I somehow made a decision to get honest with myself and with another human being.

"It's really bad, Gene," I admitted, choking up. "I can't imagine how this has happened again. I'm sick and I think my wife just left me." Looking back now, I realize that I had surrendered at that moment. Gene chuckled a bit, which pissed me off. "Well, I'm glad you're still alive," he said. "Let's get some coffee."

Gene later described that meeting. My skin had a dead-grey hue and the whites of my eyes were awash in yellow, he said. My mind was so fogged that I could barely speak. That day, Gene shared with me the solution he found to his drinking problem in the hope that maybe it would help me with my problem. He and several other men I met spent a great deal of time with me over the next weeks, months and eventually years. For that, I'm forever grateful and indebted.

Today my life is good, even great. I still have problems, as everyone does. What's different is that now I have tools, a design for living and a purpose. Today the most important things in my life are my relationship with something more powerful than myself, my ability to help others and my wife and two amazing children. Everything else is gravy.

I recently celebrated five years of sobriety in AA. I want people to know that the possibility of changing your life is real. Also, I'm not a poster child for any particular method of getting sober. Pretty much all I know is that I've found something powerful that worked for me today and I'm pretty sure if I do the same things I've done for the past 1825 days, I'll enjoy one more day sober, happy and purposeful tomorrow.

MICHAEL L. | PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Group Contributions — July 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	\$65.00	Murray Street	\$140.00	\$140.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$450.00	\$852.00
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	\$140.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$75.00	\$75.00	Personal Stories Group	\$0.00	\$50.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Port Arthur	\$0.00	\$37.28
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	St Francis	\$280.00	\$380.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$218.00	\$447.60
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$100.00	West End	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$50.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Totals	\$1,183.00	\$2,336.88

**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.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting
September 6, 2020 At 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting
Cancelled until further notice
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.

September 6th GSR meeting will be election's for District 90 positions, effective January 1, 2021.

All who wish to stand for a position, and or vote must be present at the meeting.

MID-COUNTY GROUP 43RD ANNIVERSARY



**Come Join Us to celebrate
our Group Anniversary**

9am - Donut Meeting

Open discussion

10:15 Registration

11am - AA Speaker - TBA

12:30 - Lunch Served

2pm - Alanon Speaker - TBA

3pm - Washer Board Tournament

6pm - Dinner

7:30pm - AA Speaker - TBA

9pm - Raffle

September 12, 2020 All Day event

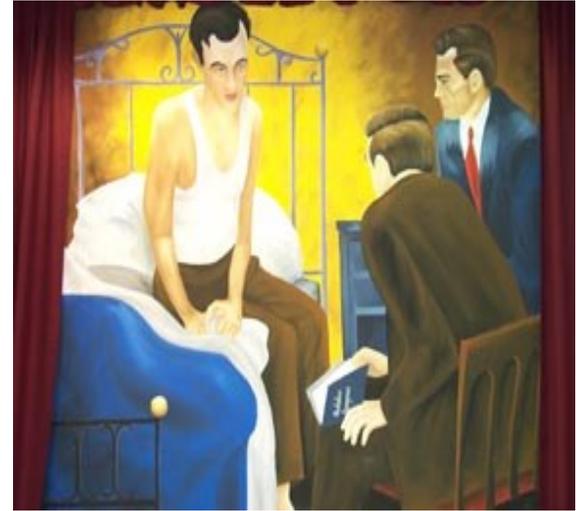
908 Boston, Nederland Tx. 409-722-5911



Happy Birthday To You!!!



Intergroup would like to congratulate everyone who is celebrating a birthday in August!!!



8th Step Principle

Reflection

Brotherly Love

8th Promise

Self-seeking will slip away.



We are not a glum lot.