

Step 9

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.”

GOOD judgement, a careful sense of timing, courage and prudence — these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step 9.

After we have made the list of people we had harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance, and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see that the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reason-

ably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct amends from the day we join Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment we tell

our families that we are really going to try the program, the process has begun. In this area there are seldom any questions of timing or caution. We want to come in the door shouting the good news. After coming from our first meeting, or perhaps after we have finished reading the book “Alcoholics Anonymous,” we usually want to sit down with some member of the family and readily admit the damage we have done by our drinking.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 83-84

Tradition 9 Long Form

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

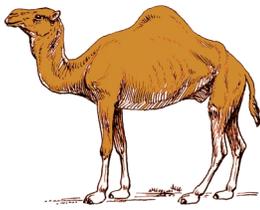
WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that “Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.” In years since then, we changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous __ A.A. as a whole __ should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, “What do they mean, no organization?”

Well, let’s see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn’t somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn’t nearly every society on earth give authority to some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet, Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board*, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We’ve tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 172-173

** in 1954, the name of Alcoholic Foundation, Inc., was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*



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 IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

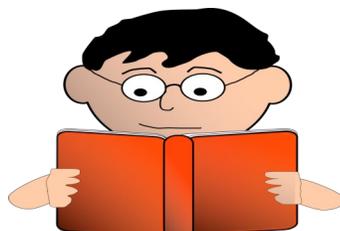
The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 36 of the Concepts Section

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. But weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures. But once we have created a basically sound structure, that job is finished, except for occasional refinements.

With *leadership* we shall have a continuous problem. Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem that in its very nature cannot be permanently solved. We must continuously find the right people for our many service tasks. Since our future effectiveness must thus depend upon ever-new generations of leaders, it seems desirable that we now proceed to define what a good service leader should be; that we carefully indicate in each level of service, especially in our Board of Trustees, what special skills will always be required; and that we review our present methods of finding and choosing that leadership.

Excerpts from *The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 36 of the Concepts Section*

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



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



SEPTEMBER 2020

The payoff is Peace

The Second and Third Steps are gradual and gentle. Like Step Two says, we “came to believe,” not that we just “believed.” Believing in a power greater than myself is something I “came to” do. It took time. It took seeing a power work in my life; it took personal, hands-on experience.

My biggest growth spurts, my biggest shifts from pretending to believing came after moving beyond a phenomenal amount of pain. When my soul shifted from being shrouded in darkness to being illuminated with sunshine. When Nine Inch Nails wasn’t something I wanted to listen to every day.

The one treatment center I went to was Twelve Step-based. Their treatment plan was to have patients complete the first five Steps in order to graduate. When working Step Two, a great deal of emphasis was put on making lists of how and why we were insane. Those lists were all too easy. In-

sanity is fairly obvious when you’re ready to stop...

There was the Christmas Eve the family and I were decorating the tree, and I kept sneaking down to the basement every 15 to 20 minutes to take a big pull off my whiskey bottle. And then before the night was over, my teary-eyed wife was asking me, “Are you drunk?”

Then there was the time I woke her up at 6:30 in the morning because I had lost my mind and I needed to tell her that she was part of the problem. Most alcoholics do go crazy when they first sober up. I was alarm clock crazy.

Insanity—I know it all too well. I’m much more interested in looking for hope, in returning to sanity now that my jugs are plugged. And with Step Two, this gets my attention: It’s not “will restore,” but “could restore.” I have to let that power in, and of course I get no guarantees.

Then one night, after being sober for a while, I was having dinner by myself at a diner and I looked around. I could see I was the only person flying solo. Eating alone isn’t my favorite thing to do, but whatever. I have my phone and the whole internet.

While perusing my phone, I saw a picture of my now ex-wife going by—with her boyfriend. They were smiling at each other. As I sat there looking at the photo, by

no choice of my own, I honestly felt happy for them. I could see that she hadn’t had that kind of happiness for a long time. I had always wanted the very best for her. I realized that the “very best” wasn’t me; she had found it elsewhere. And because I had closure with all of that, walked through my program and dealt with all our breakup’s phenomenal pain, I could be sincerely delighted for them both.

Before I could detach and let go though, I needed to feel all those feelings I’d kept locked up in me down in the basement. I can’t move on from something if I’ve never dealt with it, never processed. Hence moral inventory and amends.

So the simple, and yet hard, answer is that I’m restored to sanity by staying sober and working the Steps. It’s really that simple. And go to my AA meetings. And talk with my sponsor Jerry too. As he said not long ago, “The payoff is peace.”

I had peace that night at the diner. Peace for me and peace for her. And that’s what I always wanted.

TRAVIS C. | GENEVA, ILL.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS — AUGUST 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	\$0.00	\$140.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$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	\$160.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$380.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$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	\$50.00	\$50.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$50.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Totals	\$70.00	\$2,406.88

**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 AM 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

October 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

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.

Starting at 9 am

**MID-COUNTY GROUP
43RD ANNIVERSARY**

September 12, 2020 All Day event

908 Boston, Nederland Tx. 409-722-5911

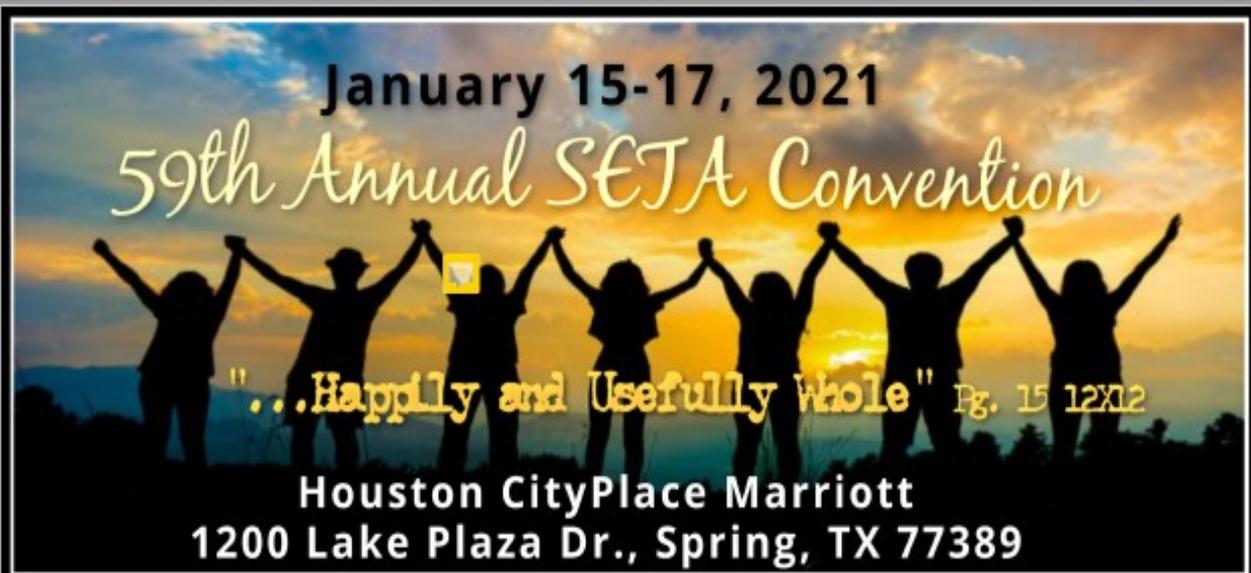
Social and Emotional Recovery

A Online Workshop sponsored by District 20

Saturday September 12, 2020 1:30 pm - 4:45 pm

To register and receive the handouts and the Zoom link to the workshop, please e-mail

district20workshop@gmail.com



Friday, January 15

7:30 p.m. AA - Clif G., OKC, OK

10:00 p.m. AA - Matt C., Austin, TX

Saturday, January 16

9:30 a.m. GSO Speaker TBA

11:00 a.m. Al-Anon - Lori G., OKC, OK

1:30 p.m. CFC - Dan K., College Station, TX

3:00 p.m. Spanish Speaker TBA

4:30 p.m. Traditions at Home Workshop

8:00 p.m. AA - Jennifer H-K., Plano, TX

Sunday, January 17

10:30 a.m. AA - Johnny H., Long Beach, CA

**Pre-registration fee is \$15 for AA/Al-Anon
VISIT: setaconvention.org or use the QR Codes.**

REGISTRATION



HOTEL

281-350-4000



WEBSITE



The hotel room rate is \$115/night and the cutoff date is December 29, 2020. The phone number for the hotel is 281-350-4000.

Full Name (s) _____

Badge Name (s) _____

Home Group _____

Circle one please: AA Al-Anon Alateen

Address _____

Phone _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Quantity	Type	Price	Est. Cost
_____	AA / Early Registration	\$ 15.00	\$ _____
_____	Al-Anon / Early Registration	\$ 15.00	\$ _____
_____	Alateen / Child	FREE	\$ _____
_____	Coffee Tag	\$ 5.00	\$ _____
_____	Scholarship Donation		\$ _____
TOTAL DUE			\$ _____

Alateens must have permission slips!
Please indicate special needs in the space below.
Spanish translation will be provided.

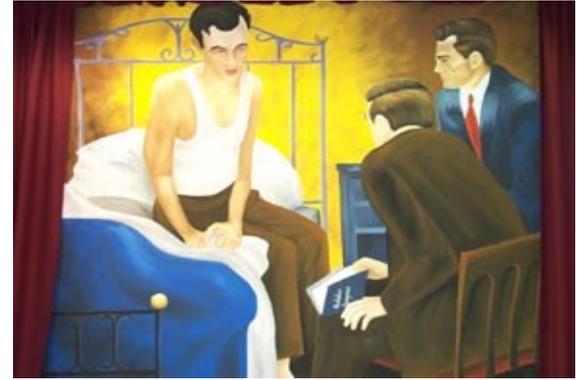


SETA Convention
448 W 19th Street #696
Houston TX 77008



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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



9th Step Principle

Justice

9th Promise

Self-Seeking
Will Slip Away.



We are not a
glum lot.