

Step 5

“Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

All of A.A.’s Twelve Steps ask us to go contrary to our natural desires... they all deflate our egos. When it comes to ego deflation, few Steps are harder to take than Five. But scarcely any Step is more necessary to longtime sobriety and peace of mind than this one.

A.A. experience has taught us we cannot live alone with our pressing problems and the character defects which cause or aggravate them. If we have swept the searchlight of Step Four back and forth over our careers, and it has revealed in stark relief those experiences we’d rather not remember, if we have come to know how

wrong thinking and action have hurt us and others, then the need to quit living by ourselves with those tormenting ghosts of yesterday gets more urgent than ever. We have to talk to somebody about them.

So intense, though, is our fear and reluctance to do this, that many A.A.’s at first try to bypass Step Five. We search for an easier way— which usually consists of the general and fairly painless admission that when drinking we were sometimes bad actors. Then, for good measure, we add dramatic descriptions for that part of our drinking behavior which our friends probably know about anyhow.

But of the things which really bother and burn us, we say nothing. Certain distressing or humiliating memories, we tell ourselves, ought not be shared with anyone. These will remain our secret. Not a soul must ever know. We hope they’ll go to the grave with us.

Yet if AA.’s experience means anything at all, this in not only unwise, but is actually a perilous resolve.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 55

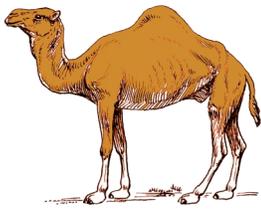
Tradition 5 Long Form

“Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose — that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

“SHOEMAKER, stick to thy last!”... better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this Tradition. Around it our Society gathers in unity. The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle.

Alcoholics Anonymous can be likened to a group of physicians who might find a cure for cancer, and upon whose concerted work would depend the answer for sufferers of this disease. True, each physician in such a group might have his own specialty. Every doctor concerned would at times wish he could devote himself to his chosen field rather than work only with the group. But once these men had hit upon a cure, one it because apparent that only by their united effort could this be accomplished, then all of them would feel bound to devote themselves solely to the relief of cancer. In the radiance of such a miraculous discovery, any doctor would set his other ambitions aside, at whatever personal cost.

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each A.A. to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and or recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates A.A.’s all around the globe.



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 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.

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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 V

Throughout our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

In the light of the principle of the “Right of Appeal,” all minorities — whether in our staffs, committees, corporate boards or among the Trustees — should be encouraged to file minority reports whenever they feel a majority to be in considerable error. And when a minority considers an issue to be such a grave one that a mistaken decision could seriously affect A. A. as a whole, it should then charge itself with the actual *duty* of presenting a minority report to the Conference.

In granting this traditional “Right of Appeal,” we recognize that minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are partly or wholly in error they still perform a most valuable service when, by asserting their “Right of Appeal,” they compel a thorough-going debate on important issues. The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.

The traditional “Right of Appeal” should also permit any person in our service structure, whether paid or unpaid, to petition for the redress of a personal grievance, carrying his complaint, if he so desires, directly to the General Service Board. He or she should be able to do this without prejudice or fear of reprisal. Though in practice this will be a seldom exercised right, its very existence will always tend to restrain those in authority from unjust uses of their power. Surely our workers should cheerfully accept the necessary direction and disciplines that go with their jobs, but all of them should nevertheless feel that they need not silently endure unnecessary and unfair personal domination.

Concerning both “Appeal” and “Petition,” I am glad to say that in A.A.’s world services these valuable practices and rights have always been put to good use. Therefore I am committing them to writing only by way of helping to confirm and enlarge their future applications.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 20 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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



More Valuable Than Ever

BY: ANONYMOUS | AMHERST, MASS.

In the right hands, a Big Book never stops working. And this member's copy has had some wonderful lives

My uncle Mickey was an oldtimer in AA. Unfortunately, no one in my extended family recalls exactly when Mickey got sober. I do know that when I was a boy in the 1950s, Mickey was already sober.

I came into the program in 1978, a few years after Mickey passed away. After I'd been in the program for a while, my Aunt Louise, Mickey's wife, gave me his second edition Big Book. On its title page it has an inscription from AA's cofounder, Bill W. It reads: "Dear Mickey—For your great service to us all, my endless thanks.—Ever Bill." It's dated April 1968.

Bill wrote the inscription at a lunch that my aunt and uncle had with Bill and Lois at their upstate New York home, Stepping Stones. The event was connected to a service position Micky had. The book is also signed by the members of my uncle's home group. I treasured my aunt's gift to me as a family and

Fellowship heirloom of great value.

About 15 years ago, I was helping a sponsee, Roger, journey through the Steps. I asked him to come to my house so we could read and discuss the Fourth Step in the Big Book together. When he showed up at my house, he hadn't brought his Big Book with him. Roger lived a long enough distance away from me that it would have taken a fair amount of time for him to drive home, get his copy of the Big Book and drive back to my house.

After gently remonstrating him in a "What were you thinking?" way, I looked around the house to see what other copies of the Big Book I had besides my working copy. The Big Book inscribed by Bill turned out to be the only other copy I had on hand. Without hesitation, I said to my sponsee, "Here, use this copy to read along, underline and make notes that help you."

Roger was aware that it was a copy inscribed by Bill W., and said, "I can't. That's a valuable book."

"Yeah, but its value is spiritual, not monetary," I said. "If you use it to do the work it outlines, your work will increase its value, not lessen it."

Despite his reservations, Roger took the book and, as we read and discussed the Fourth Step, he underlined points of emphasis and made notes in the margins.

When we were finished, I told him to take the book home. I told him to use it, along with the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book, with some suggestions from my own experience, to do a Fourth Step that illuminated "every dark cranny of the past."

When Roger came back to my house to do his Fifth Step, he re-

turned my Big Book. I saw that at the end of the Fourth Step section on the last page of the chapter "How It Works," he'd written, "Amen" and had drawn a smiley face. He also signed it with his first name and the first initial of his last name and dated it October 2003.

Not too many years after that, Roger passed away from cancer. Shortly before he died, some friends and I put on a meeting for him at the nursing home where he stayed. When I came into the program, like a lot of men, I was uncomfortable with hugging or holding anyone's hand in prayer. Before I left the meeting that day, I kissed Roger on the forehead and told him that he'd lived a good life because I felt he needed to hear that. He died a few days later.

So now I have a Big Book inscribed by Bill W. and by my sponsee Roger. The section on the Fourth Step has many underlines and notes in the margins, nothing personal, just aids to grasping the directions.

I suppose that were I to seek to sell the book, it might fetch less of a price because of the markings on the Fourth Step. But like I told my sponsee, its value is not just in the words printed on a page but also in the fact that alcoholics in the Fellowship used it as a tool to grow spiritually.

I intend to never sell the book inscribed by two alcoholics who never knew each other, but who shared a language of the heart. When the time comes, I'll seek to pass it along to someone I believe will value it in the way I do. I trust that is what my aunt had in mind when she passed it on to me.

Group Contributions — April 2021

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton SOP	\$0.00	\$0.00
A New Beginning	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County	\$0.00	\$0.00
Any Lengths	\$300.00	\$550.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$462.00	\$924.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$0.00	\$80.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Personal Stories Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$150.00	\$200.00	Port Arthur	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$702.46	Serenity	\$0.00	\$400.00
Jasper Noon	\$250.00	\$250.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$400.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$223.20
Kirbyville	\$130.00	\$130.00	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	\$100.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$50.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$1,292.00	\$4,009.66

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

June 6, 2021 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

July 18, 2021 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Meeting is held in the rear of the building.

TLC Group

28th Anniversary

June 4, 2021

1st Presbyterian Church

845 Hwy 96 Bus. Silsbee, Texas

3 - Birthdays Kelsey J. 3 Years

Dan T. 3 Years

Mary Ann J. 33 Years

5:30pm Fellowship

6:00pm Bar-B-Q & Fixings

7:00pm Speaker Dan T. (TLC Group)

74^{1/2} ANNUAL
TEXAS STATE CONVENTION
 ★ JUNE 11-13, 2021 ★ FORT WORTH, TX ★
A VISION FOR YOU

Register online at txaaconvention.org through May 28th

HOTEL INFO

Hilton Fort Worth
 815 Main Street
 Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Rates from \$139 available until May 13, 2020. Request rooms for "Texas State Convention."
Call (817) 870-2100
Book online: txaaconvention.org

REGISTER

FULL NAME _____

- AA Al-Anon Convention First-timer
 Alateen Special Needs

NAME on BADGE _____ HOME GROUP _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

QTY	SUBTOTAL
_____ @ \$30 = \$ _____	Pre-registration
_____ @ \$24 = \$ _____	Al-Anon luncheon*
_____ @ \$35 = \$ _____	Banquet dinner*
	\$ _____ Scholarship donation
	\$ _____ Total

***AA Banquet and Al-Anon luncheon seating is very limited, please purchase early.**

Please include attendee badge information for each registration, luncheon or banquet dinner purchased. Badges required for all functions; Spanish Translation, ASL interpreter, archives, speaker CDs available; all meetings are non-smoking, hospitality rooms closed during all speaker meetings.

Early registration closed after May 28th; on-site registration \$35.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY JUNE 11:

- 2:00 pm** Registration Opens
- 5:00 pm** Hospitality Opens
- 6:00 pm** Old-Timers Panel
- 8:00 pm** AA Speaker
Amy D., Louisville, KY
- 9:30 pm** Young People's Meeting

SATURDAY JUNE 12:

- 9:00 am** Area Delegates Report
- 10:00 am** GSO Speaker
Rick W., New York, NY
- 11:00 am** Alateen Speakers Emily P. & Noah L., Fort Worth, TX
- 11:00 am** Al-Anon Luncheon
- 1:00 pm** Al-Anon Speaker
Larcine G., Hawthorn, CA
- 2:30 pm** AA Speaker
Victor V., Springdale, AR
- 4:00 pm** Corrections Panel
- 4:00 pm** Alateen Discussion Meeting
- 6:30 pm** Banquet Dinner
- 8:00 pm** AA Speaker
Beth H., Cary, NC
- 9:45 pm** Karaoke & Dance

SUNDAY JUNE 13:

- 8:30 am** AA History
Dano B., Fort Worth, TX
- 10:00 am** AA Speaker
Adam T., Santa Monica, CA

**Program subject to change*

Make checks payable to:
 Texas State Convention 2020
 PO Box 122794
 Fort Worth, TX 76121

Pre-registered attendees will have their badges, luncheon tickets, banquet tickets & programs waiting at the registration table.

7th Tradition Statement: One of the most common misconceptions of these gatherings is that they are AA meetings, and that since "There are no dues or fees for AA membership," there should be no fees to attend. Conventions are special events, not regular meetings. They require months of planning and preparation and money to present. This convention is self-supporting. The cost of the convention is paid through registration fees, and as responsible AA members we must pay our own way.

***If you have a paid registration for the TSC in 2020 you are already registered for the 2021 Convention.**



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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



Mustard Seed Group

15th Anniversary

June 5, 2021

6pm Eat

7pm Speaker

Dan V. (Mustard Seed Group)

Westgate Memorial Baptist Church (Gym)

6220 Westgate Drive

Beaumont, Texas 77706

(Masks will not be required but will be available)



5th Step Principle

Integrity

5th Promise

No matter how far down the scale we have gone we will see how our experience can benefit others.



We are not a glum lot.