

STEP 6

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults — *without reservations whatever* — has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can — and will, under certain conditions — remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this: “Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own willpower just wouldn’t work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends,

doctors, and clergymen got no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished, It was lifted right out of me.

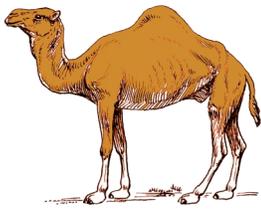
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 63

TRADITION 6 LONG FORM

“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places or recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. — and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. A.A. group can bind itself to no one.”

The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.

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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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74 1/2 Texas State Convention	

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 VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Just as the A.A. Groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act freely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself.

This critical need for Trustee liberty of action raises several important questions. Next to the Conference, A.A.'s Board of Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants that we have, and therefore we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at top effectiveness over the years to come. We shall need to review and perhaps amend somewhat our present methods of choosing Trustees. We shall need to define clearly the several kinds of professional and financial skills that will always be required for a balanced trusteeship. Only by so doing can we permanently insure the Board's capability of future leadership.

In order to avoid continuous confusion, it will also be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference and just how they in turn should relate themselves to their active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. (including its division of A.A. Publishing) and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., our monthly magazine .

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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



JUNE 2021 | DATING & RELATIONSHIPS

Ready to do this?

BY: TERRY F. | MENOMONEE FALLS, WIS.

After many tries to get sober, would a little tough love help him out?

It was Sunday night. I had 28 days of treatment under my belt and it was time to attend my first AA meeting outside the treatment center. I headed over to St. Agnes parish in Butler, Wisconsin, where I had once attended grade school. It seemed like a good choice for my home group. When I arrived, I was greeted by a guy named John C., lovingly known as “Flat Top John” because of his crew cut hairstyle. I explained that I was there for the First Step meeting.

Those meetings were held on a stage behind a thick red curtain, while the regular group met out on the main floor. Flat Top John was the First Step chairperson. He was responsible for setup, which meant hoisting heavy chairs onto the stage so the newcomers could have a quiet place to meet. This would be his responsibility for the next six months, which coincided, as fate would have it, with my first six months in the program.

I went to meetings, but my early recovery also included an ongoing debate I held with myself over whether I was actually a real alcoholic, despite how sick I had become once again. The last time out I was lucky to have not killed myself. So I returned to the stage for the First Step meeting where I knew I’d always be welcomed.

My point of view was that each time I slipped I needed to start all over again because I had missed the mark by not admitting my powerlessness and my unmanageability. I lacked the knowledge of how the AA concepts could keep me sober.

This went on for four months with countless restarts, and each time Flat Top John would hoist the heavy chairs up onto the stage and we’d discuss his experience, strength and hope. Then he would listen to my message of failure, desperation and defeat—repeatedly.

Eventually, it seemed to me that Flat Top John was beginning to show signs of resentment toward me and was losing his patience. My observation was proven correct one Sunday night when he threw me out of the First Step meeting and sternly told me I must “get on with my life in AA.”

“I didn’t know there were any musts in AA,” I said to him, or something to that effect. Right then, while he didn’t throw me off the stage, he did knock some heavy chairs off the stage, where they hit the floor with a bang. He told me that by believing in the power of the other 11 Steps, my desperation and obsessions would subside.

I already knew I was an alcoholic. I even knew that continuing to fixate on the First Step was keeping me at a standstill. Flat Top John said it was time for me to go out and sit with the “big boys” on the main floor and listen to what they had to say about the Steps and how to work the program, but tonight he and I would begin at Step Two.

He was an agnostic, like me. He believed the Second Step served as an immense power shift from self-centeredness to a belief in the Twelve Steps. This would fill a vacuum that was created when I stopped drinking. He explained that the Steps would make a profound and spiritual change in my life, just like they had in his. My fears and resentments would lessen and my obsession to use alcohol would end.

He suggested that in time, my reluctance to include God in my life would change, beginning with a desire to seek a Higher Power. He added that my rela-

tionships with others would improve. Flat Top John knew I had a sliver of willingness or else I wouldn’t keep finding my way back to that First Step meeting. Now I just needed a similar splinter of belief that the Steps could be a power greater than me.

His bold words and the memory of him throwing those heavy chairs around caused me to follow his suggestions. Maybe I was a bit afraid of him. Taking his advice, I attended the meetings on the main floor and listened to the old-timers explain what the Steps meant to them and how they worked them on a daily basis.

John was right. In time, my obsession to use alcohol did indeed subside. My knowledge, belief and understanding of the Steps grew until I, the First Step “lifer,” was explaining to others the impact the Steps were making in my life.

Some years later, John relocated to an assisted living complex just outside the area. We were surprised when one of our members reported that John had contacted him, seeking help getting his life’s loose ends in order, as he was in hospice care for congestive heart failure. While helping out, our friend asked John when he had last attended an AA meeting. He said it had been a while. Soon, some members in my home group decided to bring a meeting to him the following Tuesday. When the announcement about the hospice meeting was made at my home group, I said I would go since John was at my first meeting and I wanted to be at his last.

We met John in his apartment and asked what format he wanted to use for the Every Tuesday Flat Top John Meeting. “I’d like a Step discussion meeting, but let’s start at Step Two,” he said.

Flat Top John was released from hospice three weeks later. It seems fear had been stressing his heart, and with a renewed faith in the Steps, his heart got stronger. We continued to meet at John’s house for three more years. It’s safe to say it wasn’t the first time the Steps saved a life, and as many of us know well, it won’t be the last.

Group Contributions May 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	\$0.00	\$550.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$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	\$20.00	\$100.00
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	\$0.00	\$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	\$400.00	\$800.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$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	\$50.00	\$100.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$470.00	\$4,479.66

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

July Meeting



June 27, 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.

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



WE WILL KNOW PEACE

40th ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 20, 21 & 22, 2021

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Adam T. Los Angeles, CA. Fri. 10:00 PM AA Robert S. Fellowship, Bmt,Tx. Sat. 8:30 AM AFG Four Faces of Al-Anon Sat. 10:00 AM AA Rick F. Boca Raton, FL. Sat. 01:00 PM Alanon TBD Sat. 02:15 PM Alateen TBD Sat. 03:00 PM AA Rick F. AA - Historian Sat. 04:15 PM AA Old Timers Sat. 08:00 PM AA Kent C. Sanduskie, OH. Sat. 10:00 PM Dance Sun. 10:00 AM AA Tina Albert Wilmington, CA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2355 I-10 Access Rd SOUTH (GPS) 1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705 409-842-3600</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">ROOM RATE - \$99 PER NIGHT / \$129 SUITE PER NIGHT EARLY DEADLINE - 8/4/2021</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">ONSITE REGISTRATION</p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 31, 2021 (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)[†] Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea. Alateen: \$ 5 ea. Dance only: \$ 5 ea. Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</p> <p>Dance admission included with convention registration *"Dance only" tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night</p>
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Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social

Name1 : _____ Email Address: _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen [†] <i>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter ___Spanish Translator ___Special Accom/Need</i>	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen [†] <i>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter ___Spanish Translator ___Special Accom/Need</i>												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Pre-Registration:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Amt. Enclosed:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Sponsorship Donation</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">TOTAL ENCLOSED</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>†Alateens must have signed permission slips!</i></p>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____	<p>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</p> <p>District 90 Convention Treasurer PO Box 1591 Groves, TX 77619</p>
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:												
{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____												

We urge everyone to pre-register and to book any rooms before the July cut-off date where possible. This helps keep registration fees low/max. convention exp./hospitality/available scholarships—that we may Serve and Carry the Message.



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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



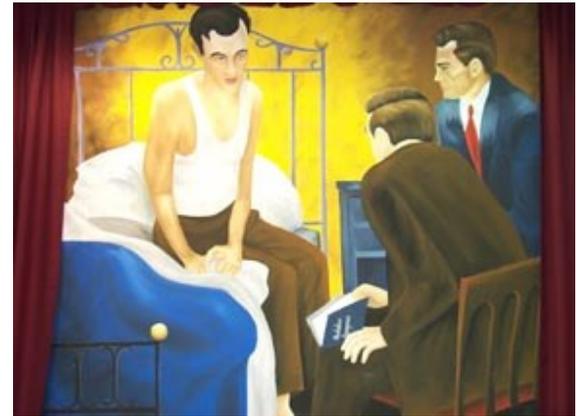
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
TEXAS STATE
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 74th ANNUAL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
CONVENTION

JUNE 11-13, 2021
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
Co-host: Midland/Odessa



A VISION FOR YOU
'A SECOND LOOK'

The [SETA 2022 Convention](#) will be held in conjunction with the January 21-23, 2022 Assembly
Go To aa-seta.org and click on the SETA 2022 Convention link



6th Step Principle
Willingness

6th Promise

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.



We are not a glum lot.