

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 reasonably confident that we can main-

tain 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.”

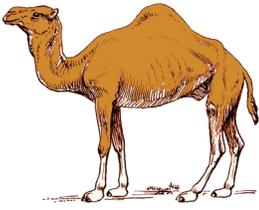
WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that “Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.” In years since then, we changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous __ A.A. as a whole __ should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming 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, any-
where, reaches out for
help, I want the hand
of AA always to be
there. And for that: I
am responsible.

Inside this issue:

Step 9—Tradition 9	1
Concept IX	2
Stories (Grapevine)	3
Contributions	4
District / Intergroup Meeting	5
Orange Group 51 st Anniversary	6
9th Promise, Principle	7

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

AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



SEPTEMBER 2021 | YOUNG & SOBER!

Two mornings

BY: P.J. D. | DOVER, N.H.

It is morning.

As my eyes open and my vision focuses, the first thing I see is the half-drunk bottle of beer. Damn. I did it again.

I sit up and see that I'm in my basement. I am still in my boots and winter coat. I never took them off after the night's last cigarette. I hear shuffling upstairs. Good grief. They're awake. I need to somehow pull myself together and make some remark about how I must have dozed off downstairs again. Maybe we can push off one more day the giant elephant in the room.

As I enter the kitchen upstairs, I immediately see the sadness in my wife's eyes. A sadness that my daughter is too young to recognize. "Guess I fell asleep downstairs," I say.

After some awkward silence my wife says, "Do you even remember what you said to me last night?" Her words cut like a knife as guilt pours over me, guilt about something I have absolutely no recollection of saying.

The guilt quickly turns into fear. What will she do when I need to start drinking again later today? I have to drink. I'll figure out a way. I always do. She's just being a you-know-what, I tell myself. Who cares what I said? I was drunk. Big deal. "I don't want to deal with this right now," I tell her.

Not much is said for the rest of the morning. My wife leaves for work. My daughter boards the bus for school. I plan my next drink. Shortly after, my phone lights up. It's my wife. The text reads, "We need to talk."

Today is a much different morning.

My eyes open and I peer over my wife's sleeping body to see the numbers 4:44 on the clock next to the bed. I usually like to sleep until at least 5:00 but 4:44 is close enough. Plus, this is my favorite time of day.

I say a quick prayer of gratitude, then head down for my morning routine. First, coffee.

I know my wife will be up shortly, so I prepare two cups. I microwave the cups first, so they are nice and warm. I prepare our coffee just the way we like it, with a little French vanilla cream. I hear shuffling upstairs and know that she will be down soon.

As she enters the kitchen, still sleepy, I hand her her cup. Her eyes open wider, and she says, "You made one for me because you love me?" These days, I make her coffee every morning, but she always treats it with the excitement as if it's the first cup I've ever made her. She beams with gratitude. We make our way to the living room, Bibles in hand. It's our morning routine to start our day this way.

We read in silence, then we discuss. Sometimes we discuss what we read, sometimes we just discuss our day ahead. The morning flies by as it always does. My wife heads off for work. My daughter heads off for school. I plan my day.

Shortly after, my phone lights up. It's my wife. The text reads, "I love you so much." Thank you, AA.

Group Contributions — August 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	\$129.47
Any Lengths	\$0.00	\$550.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$70.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$55.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$1,386.00
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	\$140.00
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	\$350.00	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	\$800.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$250.00	St Francis	\$300.00	\$1,000.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$497.20
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$210.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$50.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$100.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$150.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$33.70
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$350.00	\$6424..36

**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**

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 10, 2021 at 2:00 PM**

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

**Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting
October 17, 2021 at 2:00 PM**

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

**INTERGROUP STILL HAS A LIMITED SUPPLY OF
2021 CONVENTION MUGS &
CONVENTION T-SHIRTS**

MUGS \$12

T-SHIRTS \$24

**SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 6, 2021**

**For more information visit : aabeaumont.org and click on the
EVENTS Tab –Flyer**



ORANGE GROUP 51st ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 23 rd , 2021

1011 WESTERN AVE ORANGE , TX . 77630

**5:30 P.M. ALANON SPEAKER
TON`A S . MID COUNTY**

**8 P.M. A.A. SPEAKER
WAYNE P . FANNETT**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

7:00 AM LIGHTING OF THE PIT

10:30 AM BEGINNERS MEETING

12:00 PM LUNCH (LINKS AND FIXINS)

2:00 PM OLD TIMERS MEETING
20 + YEARS CALL UP FROM FLOOR
5 / 12 MINUTE TALKS

3:30 ASK IT BASKET / DISCUSSION

5:30 P.M ALANON SPEAKER

6:30 P.M. BRISKET DINNER

7:45 P.M. FREE RAFFLE

8:00 P.M. A.A. SPEAKER



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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



At Wit's End September 2021

Sponsor wisdom

Newcomer: "Do alcoholics run in your family?"

Sponsor: "No, they just stumble around and break stuff."

Dusty B. Hancock, Maine



9th Step Principle

Justice

9th Promise

**Self-Seeking
Will Slip Away.**



**We are not a
glum lot.**