

Step 11

“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Prayer and meditation are our principal means of conscious contact with God.

We A.A.'s are active folk, enjoying the satisfactions of dealing with the realities of life, usually for the first time in our lives, and strenuously trying to help the next alcoholic who comes along. So it isn't surprising that we often tend to slight serious meditation and prayer as something not really nec-

essary. To be sure, we feel it is something that might help us to meet an occasional emergency, but at first many of us are apt to regard it as a somewhat mysterious skill of clergymen, from which we may hope to get a secondhand benefit. Or perhaps we don't believe in these things at all.

To certain newcomers and to those one-time agnostics who cling to the A.A. group as their higher

power, claims for the power of prayer may, despite all the logic and experience in proof of it, still be unconvincing or quite objectionable.

Those of us who once felt this way can certainly understand and sympathize. We well remember how something deep inside us kept rebelling against the idea of bowing before any God.

Twelve and Twelve page 96

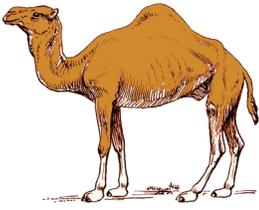
Tradition 11

“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.”

Without its legions of well-wishers, A.A. could never have grown as it has. Throughout the world, immense and favorable publicity of every descriptions has been the principal means of bringing alcoholics into our Fellowship. In A.A, offices, clubs and homes, telephones ring constantly. One voice says, “I read a piece in the newspapers...”; another, “ We heard a radio program...”; and still another, “We saw a moving picture...” or “We saw something about A.A. on television...” It is no exaggeration to say that half of A.A.'s membership has been led to us through channels like these.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 180





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.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Step 11—Tradition 11 | 1 |
| Concept 11 | 2 |
| Stories (Grapevine) | 3 |
| Contributions | 4 |
| District 90 / Intergroup meeting | 5 |
| Ninth District Intergroup Open House | 6 |
| 11th Promise, Principle | 7 |



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 XI

While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants, Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications for their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

The longtime success of our General Service Board will rest not only on the capabilities of the Trustees themselves; it will depend quite as much upon the competent leadership and harmonious association of those non-Trustee committee members, corporate service directors, executives and staff members who must actively carry on A.A.'s world services. Their quality and dedication, or their lack of these characteristics, will make or break our structure of service. Our final dependency on them will always be great indeed.

Far more than most of the Trustees, these servants will be in direct contact with A.A. world-wide, and their performance will be constantly on view. They will perform most of the routine labor, they will carry on most of our services. They will travel widely and will receive most visitors at the Headquarters. They will often originate new plans and policies. Some of them will eventually become Trustees. Because this group will form the visible image of world service, most A.A.'s will measure our service values by what they see and feel in them. Members of this group will not only *support* the world leadership of the Trustees; in the nature of the case they will be bound to *share* world leadership with them.

Fortunately we already have a sound internal structure of service in which a very competent group of non-Trustee servants are now working. Only a few refinements and changes will still be needed in A.A. World Services, Inc. and at The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., the later being a comparatively recent comer to our service scene. The main outlines of this underlying structure are now defined, and the effectiveness of this arrangement has been well proven.

AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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



NOVEMBER 2021 | PRAYER AND MEDITATION | HOME GROUP

A warm hug

BY: ED L. | WRIGHTWOOD, CALIF.

On a cold winter morning, a tiny group of alcoholics show up for one another like only AA can

We've all heard the phrase, "Don't leave five minutes before the miracle." And maybe less often, "If you can't be on time, be early." Even less commonly, "When you're the secretary, don't leave 15 minutes before the end of an unattended meeting." But what about leaving five minutes after the beginning of an unattended meeting?

In our case, it was 10:05 a.m. when my sponsee Brad and I showed up for the 10:00 o'clock Hesperia Umbrella Group meeting, or HUG. It was a cold winter morning in the Mojave Desert in California. The parking lot was empty and when I checked the backdoor, I found it was locked. I was about to leave, with the intention of arriving 20 minutes late for another 10:00 o'clock meeting across town. That's when a second vehicle splashed into the frozen mud puddles in the dirt parking lot.

Sky, the young lady driving the

car, I would learn, was in her first thirsty days of sobriety, having had her last and latest drink just 10 days earlier. So instead of leaving, we huddled in the parking lot with her and for her.

At 10:15 the secretary of the meeting came walking up. He'd been in the doctor's office a half mile away since 8:00 that morning waiting for late test results, apologizing as he hurriedly unlocked the meeting door.

After starting the coffee, he asked if we were willing to run the meeting while he went back to the waiting room to see if his test results were ready. Meanwhile, a homeless guy rushed in for a hot cup of coffee, warming his hands and escaping near-freezing temperatures. We said sure, we'd chair the meeting, as the secretary hurriedly left.

At 10:20, a middle-aged lady came in through the backdoor saying she was supposed to be at work an hour ago but needed a meeting more than the money. She'd been released from a rehab a week earlier and had developed the fledgling habit of attending meetings. She said she found the structure and camaraderie of the HUG meeting to be comforting and familiar as she was dealing with the raucous, demanding "committee" meeting in her head (as opposed to the one talking in my particular head).

As late as 11:00, another frozen alcoholic came in out of the cold. The five or six of us read from the Big Book, some passing, others reading a few pages instead of the suggested few paragraphs. Although we habitually refer to the "hand of AA," that morning we were experiencing the heart of AA,

that comforting bond among familiar strangers—warts and all—sober for that hour and a half during which we share about our common solution to our common problem. The path that started out looking unfamiliar and uncomfortable has become familiar and comforting. Our once alcohol-dependent minds are becoming spiritually independent minds. Hopefulness has replaced hopelessness.

At 11:15, the secretary returned. With the readings complete, we were into the final sharing portion of the meeting. The secretary's test results, received from the doctor just 15 minutes earlier, did not bring him good news. The diagnosis was so new that he had no idea about its ramifications and no time to dwell on the fears of his impending unknown future. What he did have was what he very much needed: five or six formerly hopeless alcoholics poised and practiced to listen and be there for him as he faced life on life's terms. In my 13 short years of sobriety, I've only experienced a few more as memorable examples of being of service.

I've often wondered if our Responsibility Declaration should more aptly be referred to as our Availability Declaration. "I am available when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help; I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am available." Who among us is truly responsible for his or her sobriety? Today, I'm sober because I've been more available, I believe, than responsible.

Group Contributions – October 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 | \$372.00 | \$1,758.00 |
| 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 | \$313.95 | \$493.95 |
| 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 | \$600.00 | \$1,400.00 |
| Jasper Noon | \$0.00 | \$250.00 | St Francis | \$0.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Jasper Serenity | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | The Buck Stops Here | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Keep It Simple | \$70.00 | \$70.00 | TLC | \$0.00 | \$773.20 |
| 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 | \$0.00 | \$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 | \$1,355.95 | \$8,145.78 |

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: steppingstones@abeaumont.org — 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

9th District Intergroup

4224 College
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

December 5, 2021 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

January 16, 2022 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

59th Annual SETA Convention

January 21-23, 2022



Friday, Jan 21

7:00p AA - Clif G., OKC, OK

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

Saturday, Jan 22

9:30a GSO - TB A., New York, NY

11:00a Alateen - TB A., HTX, TX

11:15a Al-Anon - Lori G., OKC, OK

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

3:00p Spanish - TB A., HTX, TX

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

Sunday, Jan 23

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

Houston CityPlace Marriott

1200 Lake Plaza Dr.

Spring, TX 77389

Event
Registration



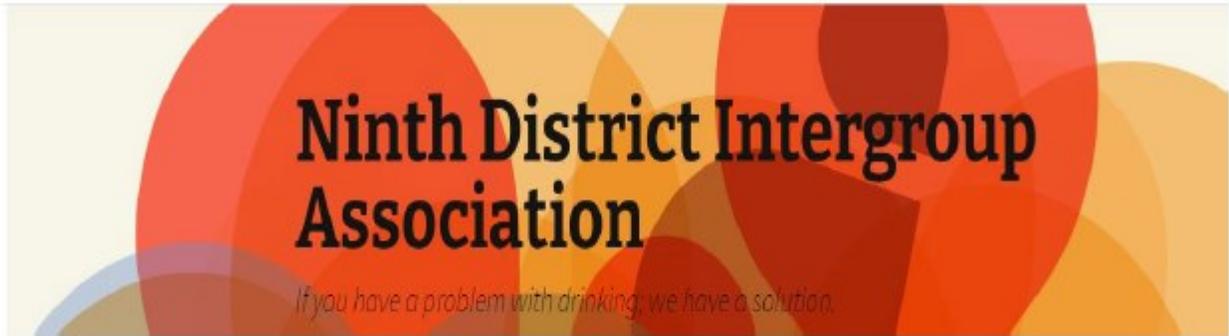
Hotel
Registration

SETA
Website



Pre-registration fee is \$15 for AA / Al-Anon - setaconvention.org

Hotel rate is \$115/night, book by Dec 29 @ (281) 350-4000



Holiday Open House

Please Join Us On

Saturday December 11, 2021

10:00am to 4:00pm

Refreshments

Food, Fun, Fellowship

Enjoy 25% Off

All Merchandise

(No group charges)





Happy Birthday To You!!!

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



**11th
Promise**
We will intuitively know how to handle situations which use to baffle us

At Wit's End

Golden rule 2.0

Newcomer: "I've read a lot lately in our literature about social media and protecting anonymity online."

Sponsor: "Yeah? What did you find out?"

Newcomer: "I think I figured out the golden rule for social media."

Sponsor: "Really, what's that?"

Newcomer: "Tweet others like you would like to be tweeted."

11th Step Principle

Awareness

