

## Step 12

**“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”**

The joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards.

Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety.

When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening. To new A.A.'s, this often seems like a very dubious and improbable state of affairs.

“What do you mean when you talk about a 'spiritual awakening'?” they ask.

Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—  
Pg. 106*

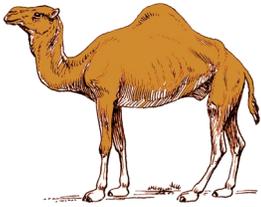
## Tradition 12

**“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”**

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.'s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 184*





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 12—Tradition 12	1
Concept 12	2
Grapevine Stories	3
Contributions	4
District 90 meetings / 75th Texas State Convention	5
2022 SETA Convention	6
12th 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.

Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from our readers is encouraged. Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected. ■

## Concept XII

**“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Traditions, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 60*

*The Concept here considered consists of Article 12 of the Conference Charter. There are good reasons for placing it in this context.*

*Taken as a whole, our Conference Charter is the substance of an informal agreement, which was made between the A.A. groups and their trustees in 1955. It is the agreed basis upon which the General Service Conference operates. In part, the Charter is an elastic document; its first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself at any time.*

**But Article 12 of the Charter stands in a class by itself. An amendment or a cancellation of any of its vital Warranties would require the written consent of three quarters of all the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals, and the considerable time of six months is allowed for careful deliberation. (This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.) Although changes in the Warranties of Article 12 thus have been made difficult, they have not been made impossible.**

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.—pg. 60*

# AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

**To Receive Grapevine go the website and order**



DECEMBER 2021 | REMOTE COMMUNITIES & SOBER HOLIDAYS | TRADITION TWELVE

## Outed at work

BY: A.U. | HOOD RIVER, ORE.

*The last thing she expected was an AA member to reveal her alcoholism at the office. Oh boy, was she rattled!*

A few days ago, someone in the program outed me at my place of work in public, in front of people I directly supervise and others. It was jarringly inappropriate. I panicked, froze and began to shake. I felt like I couldn't breathe, and all I could make myself do was turn away and pretend it hadn't happened.

Anonymity has always been very important to me. I'm a professional and a government employee. I'm new to sobriety and new to what seemed like an impossibly small town when I first arrived. So small was the town that in my first couple of months of sobriety, I drove to neighboring towns to attend AA meetings so no one would see me coming in and out. As though anyone cared. But I was self-obsessed and fraught with overwhelming concern about what people would think.

As my months in sobriety grew and I wholeheartedly put myself into Step work, I started attending AA meetings in my town and began to feel comforted by the faces I got to know in sobriety. It began to seem as though alcoholics truly were everywhere. It was like I had finally joined the secret society I had dreamt about belonging to my entire life.

For years I have been reserved, secretive and afraid of anyone knowing anything bad about me. I curated my personality and held myself to impossible standards of perfection. So I find it especially fitting that I ended up embracing sobriety in the smallest of towns, one where everyone knows everything about one another. I had embraced the Fellowship, but that did not mean I was ready to have someone take away my anonymity.

My alcoholism was revealed that day when the man came into my workplace and looked at me—in front of a staff member who I supervise, a library volunteer and several others on the public floor—and asked me what my sponsor would have me do about a certain situation.

I turned away from him, pretending it never happened. He noted my dismissal and proceeded to try to make a joke of what he had said by saying something about Sex Addicts Anonymous and loudly claiming that he should go there just to give women his phone number.

I was stunned. As a manager, it was my job to tell him he couldn't talk about sex like that in front of the other staff members, but I didn't. I was still too upset and fearful about him revealing my secret. Instead, I did nothing and eventually walked away.

I felt livid with rage, then full of righteous indignation, then tearful, then livid again. How dare he expose my recovery in public? I remembered the words: "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." I felt confused, shaky and hot. My heart was palpating, and resentments were building.

I was blessed enough to know that an AA meeting would be starting in 10 minutes a couple of blocks away. I was visibly shaken and feeling vulnerable when I sat down in the meeting. The man who had exposed my recovery walked in a few seconds later.

Without hesitation, I leaned over and asked him to please never do that again. He responded flippantly that no one around here cared about preserving their anonymity. I repeated myself, once again asking that he respect my anonymity. He

reacted heatedly and I turned away, letting it go and settling in for the meeting that was about to begin.

I was proud of myself for addressing this immediately and with compassion. In my drinking days, I would have bottled my shame and drunk from it for years. I would have harbored a resentment and obsessed about the conversation I would have with him where I would reign victorious after informing him of the injustice that he had committed.

But that's not what the Steps have taught me. I've learned to approach everything by being honest, open, willing and loving. I've learned that to harbor a resentment, for any reason, propels me toward a relapse. I've learned to stand up for myself, that I matter, that my experience is true. I've learned that I can be both assertive and kind.

To me, one of the amazing parts of AA is that I get the privilege of living in the Tenth Step every day. Our Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book says that "every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong with us."

This inadvertent revealing of my recovery gave me an opportunity to look at myself through the lens of the Tenth Step. What was wrong with me in this situation? What am I so afraid of? I was afraid of tarnishing my perfect reputation. I was afraid that if people saw weakness in me, they wouldn't love me. I was afraid that people would judge me. The list goes on and on. What did this incident reveal about me? I saw the fragility of my ego. Although I humbly asked God to remove my defects of character, they continue to crop up. I cannot serve the Fellowship if I am governed by fear.

In AA, I get to grow and change every day as long as I continue to work the Steps and remain forever honest, open, willing and loving.

I used to think that being an alcoholic meant being weak. But being in recovery doesn't mean I'm weak. Working the Steps has given me the chance for redemption. It lets me be who I always wanted to be—strong and kind and resilient and loved.

## Group Contributions — November, 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	\$80.00
Any Lengths	\$0.00	\$550.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$70.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$55.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$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	<b>Orange</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$513.95</b>
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	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	\$1,400.00
<b>Jasper Noon</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>	St Francis	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$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
<b>Liberty</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$33.70
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$670.00</b>	<b>\$8,766.31</b>

**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**

**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

#### 9th District Intergroup

4224 College Street  
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. Come to the next GSR meeting to get more information or call the Intergroup office @ 409-832-1107

# Announcements

**Next District 90 GSR Meeting**  
**January 2, 2022 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.



**June 17-19 2022**

Austin Hilton in downtown Austin

550 East Fourth Street  
Austin, TX 78701

## There is a solution.

### 75th Anniversary of The Texas State Convention

*"We are people who normally would not mix" but this weekend we will.*

Join us for the 75th Anniversary of The Texas State Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous. We have curated amazing speakers from all over the country. Enjoy a weekend of incredible panels, meetings and a fantastic dance party as we celebrate recovery Texas-style. Don't miss this opportunity to mix and mingle with friends in recovery from all over our great state (and country).

#### Featuring:

- Erica C. from Cambridge, MA
- Lillie H. from Portland, ME
- Georgia B. from Montrose, CA
- Tim R. from Chicago, IL
- Bob B. from Minneapolis, MN
- Beau B. (GSO Speaker) from Neptune, NJ





*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

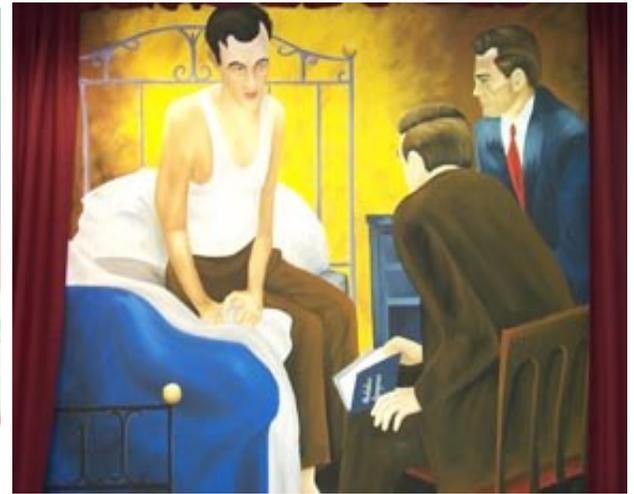


Pre-registration fee is \$15 for AA / Al-Anon - [setaconvention.org](http://setaconvention.org)

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



Happy Birthday To You!!!



December birthdays  
Mid County Group

Jeff 1 year  
Carl B 1 year  
Tammy G 1 year  
Gary 2 years  
Vicki W 6 years  
Melony H 10 years

### Twelfth Step Prayer

*Dear God, Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that "faith without works is dead." And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this message to other alcoholics! Provide me with the guidance and wisdom to talk with another alcoholic because I can help when no one else can. Help me secure his confidence and remember he is ill.*

Derived from text found on page 86 of Alcoholics Anonymous - the Big Book

## 12th Step Principle Service

### 12th Promise

We suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.



**We are not a  
glum lot.**