

Step 1

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us.

No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now becomes the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our

bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.

But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

We know that little good can come to any alcoholic who joins A.A. unless he has first accepted his devas-

tating weakness and all its consequences. Until he so humbles himself; his sobriety—if any—will be precarious. Of real happiness he will find none at all. Proved beyond doubt by an immense experience, this is one of the facts of A.A. life.

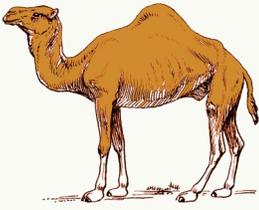
This principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flowered.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 21–22

Tradition 1 Long Form

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare should come first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.”

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, “What a great thing A.A. might have been!” Does this mean some will anxiously ask, “that in A.A. the individual doesn’t count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it?”



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 1—Tradition 1	1
Concept 1	2
Grapevine Story	3
Contributions	4
District Meetings, 59th Annual SETA Convention	5
St. Francis Eating / Speaker Meeting	6
First step Principle, First Promise	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 I

“The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services — those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our Society to function as a whole. The groups assumed that responsibility at the St. Louis International Convention of 1955. There, on behalf, of Dr. Bob, the Trustees and A.A.’s old-time leaders, I made the transfer of world service responsibility to our entire Fellowship.

Why, and by what authority was this done? There were reasons of stark necessity for it, and there were further reasons which have to do with A.A.’s fundamental structure and tradition.

By the year 1948 our necessities had become clear enough. Ten years earlier—in 1938—helped by dedicated friends, Dr. Bob and I had commenced work upon a world service structure. Our first step was the creation of a trusteeship for A.A. as a whole. We called this body the Alcoholic Foundation; and in 1954 it was re-named The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This trusteeship was designed to inaugurate and maintain all of those special services for A.A. as a whole that could not well be performed by single groups or areas. We envisioned the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling the large numbers of pleas for help that might follow in the wake of national and international publicity. We thought in terms of aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups. We thought there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translations of our literature into other languages.

By 1950 nearly all of these dreams for world service had come true. In the dozen years following the creation of The Foundation, A.A. membership had jumped from 50 to 100,000. The A.A. Traditions had been written and adopted. A confident unity had pretty much replaced fear and doubt and strife. Our services had unquestionably played a large and critical role in this unfoldment. World service, therefore, had taken on crucial meaning for A.A.’s future. If these vital agencies were to collapse or bog down, our unity within and the carrying of our message to innumerable alcoholics without, would suffer serious and perhaps irreparable damage. Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood that they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship. Among the A.A. groups it had been proven that we could survive great strain and stress. But could we stand heart failure at our world center?

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 4 of the Concepts Section

AA GRAPEVINE



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

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



JANUARY 2022 | BEGINNERS |
TRADITION ONE

BY: MICHAEL A. | SEATTLE,
WASH.

Once too unique for AA, he now sees how much we're the same and how much we need each other

I was in bad shape when I came into the rooms. I had just almost died from an overdose of pills and liquor, and I knew it was time to quit both.

I asked a friend who was in the program to go with me to an AA meeting. As I begrudgingly walked into the extremely well-lit church basement with my friend, I felt ready for a fight with anyone who approached me. I didn't want to be seen and I said so. "No one wants to be seen here," my friend replied.

That's when Sid came into the picture. Sid was a gnarly old man who seemed to be in charge of things, especially in charge of getting into my business. "Oh, you're new," Sid said. "What was your drink? I liked beer." I had no taste for either Sid or beer that day. I was about to tell him so when my friend interceded and showed me to a seat off to the side of the

room. I found out much later that Sid was the greeter and was more or less doing exactly what he was supposed to. Much later, I would list Sid in my Fourth Step, briefly.

I didn't understand how AA worked then. To me, the meeting seemed like a funeral. People would stand up and read something that didn't make much sense to me, until they got to "How It Works," which alarmed me so much I almost walked out. I came from a lifetime of hierarchical systems of promotion and punishment. If you did well, you moved up the ladder. If you didn't, you moved down.

In my first meetings, I heard what seemed like unbelievable stories of horror and gut-wrenching sorrow melded with equally disturbing hysteria. It took me a long time to accept that I had anything to do with some of these stories. I felt I was better than some of the people there or that at least I wasn't as bad as them.

Lilly shared how she was a nurse and used to take drugs off her cart and give them to people. Carmen, the homeless woman who smelled terrible, was very insistent that meetings always start and end on time. What could I possibly have in common with these people? Sure, we were alcoholics, but there had to be meetings for people more like me.

When I was actively using, I was living a form of Dante's inscription in the vestibule of hell, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here." Rather than abandoning hope, however, I had to consciously abandon all civility and caring when I entered my own personal

hell. It was my own creation and populated with my own torments. I was alone, feeling unworthy of the caring of others. Because I was alone, I couldn't care a wit about anyone else. As I saw it, they didn't care about me so why should I then be civil to them?

All that changed when I got to AA. I became part of a greater whole. In recovery, I mirrored my respect for myself with respect for others, as we are all the same. It's in this duality that I found self-respect and respect for others. It's where I found the framework for civility and caring that I had given up to alcohol so many years earlier.

I like the words of Tradition One: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity." If I don't go to meetings because I believe I'm different or better than "those people," two things happen. First, I miss the opportunity to dispel the nagging thoughts in my head, the ones from my personal hell which tell me that I'm alone, unloved and, despairingly, unlovable. Second, I put a chink in the armor of AA, since my absence results in one fewer person at a meeting to support the newcomer, one less person to dispel the alcoholic hells of others. I'm performing service by attending meetings. I'm working a program to stay sober, and to do that I need to see how I am very much the same as Sid, Carmen and Lilly. I am relearning civility and caring by sharing my story. I am you. You are me. We are one.

Group Contributions — December, 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	\$155.00	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	Orange	\$20.00	\$533.95
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$200.00	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	\$1,400.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$650.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$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	\$100.00	\$100.00	West End	\$0.00	\$100.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$200.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$33.70
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$120.00	\$8,986.31

**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@aaabeaumont.org — Web: aaabeaumont.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

TREATMENT FACILITY COMMITTEE

We need volunteers to go into both the men and the women's facilities. Come to the next District 90 GSR Meeting.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

February 6, 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.



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

Full Name(s): _____
 Badge Name: _____
 Circle one: **AA** Al-Anon Alateen
 Home Group: _____
 Address: _____
 City/ST/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

SETA Convention
 3012 State Hwy 30
 Suite 101, Box #168
 Huntsville, TX. 77340

Alateens are required to
 have Permission Slips

After Dec 30
 Registrations will
 increase to \$20

Quantity	Type	Price	Est. Cost
_____	AA / Early Registration	\$15	\$ _____
_____	Al-Anon / Early Registration	\$15	\$ _____
_____	Alateen / Child	FREE	\$ _____
_____	Coffee Tag	\$5	\$ _____
_____	Scholarship Donation		\$ _____
Total Due:			\$ _____

St. Francis Eating/Speaker Meeting

Sat., January 15th

6:00 Fellowship

6:30 Eat

**Pot Luck,
bring your favorite dish**



7:30 Speaker

Jim W,



From Galena Park

*Child Care
provided*

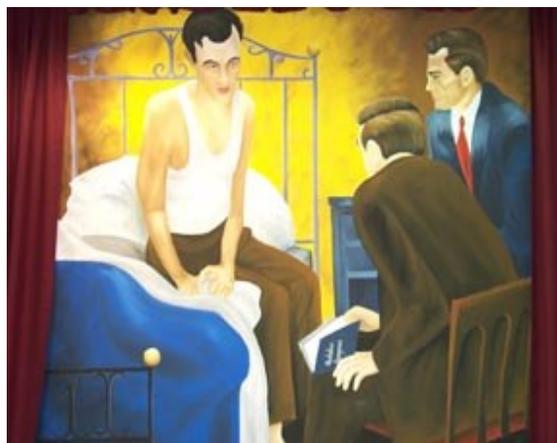
**@ Wesley United Methodist Church
corner of Folsom & Major Drive**



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



Volunteers Needed
Please scan QR Code with your camera on your SMART Phone to go to link and register to **HELP!!!**



1st Step Principle
Honesty

1st Promise
We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness



We are not a glum lot.