

## Step 2

**“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”**

The moment they read Step Two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, “Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that our lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us *won't* believe in God, others can't, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you've got us over the bar-

rel, all right — but where do we go from here?”

Let's look first at the case of the one who says he won't believe — the belligerent one. He is in a state of mind which can be described only as savage. His whole philosophy of life, in which he so gloried, is threatened. It's bad enough, he thinks, to admit alcohol has him down for keeps. But now, still smarting from that admission, he is faced with something really impossible. How he does cherish the thought that man, risen so majestically from a single cell in the primordial ooze, is the spearhead of evolution and therefore

the only god that his universe knows! Must he renounce all this to save himself?

At this juncture, his A.A. sponsor usually laughs. This, the newcomer thinks, is just about the last straw. This is the beginning of the end. And so it is: the beginning of the end of his old life, and the beginning of his emergence into a new one. His sponsor probably says, “Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think. At least I've found it so.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*  
Pages 25,26

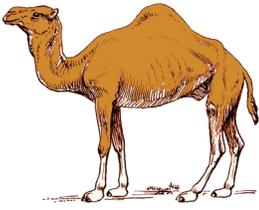
## Tradition 2

**“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servant's they do not govern”**

Where does A.A. get its direction? Who runs it? This, too is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into outer darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, “This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere.” These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A. A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, “Yes! it definitely does.” The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of A.A. history, and soon have the solid facts.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*

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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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**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 II

When, in **1955**, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article **12** of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section*

It is self-evident that the thousands of A.A. groups and the many thousands of A.A. members, scattered as they are all over the globe, cannot *of themselves* actually manage and conduct our manifold world services. The group conscience is out there among them, and so are the needed funds. The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme. They have all of the final responsibility and authority that there is. The operation is really theirs; they really own it. This has been true ever since the groups took over from the founders and old-timers at St. Louis in **1955**.

But an ultimate authority and responsibility in the A.A. groups for world services — if that is all there were to it — could not amount to anything. Nothing could be accomplished on that basis alone. In order to get effective action, the groups must delegate the actual operational authority to chosen service representatives who are fully empowered to speak and to act for them. The group conscience of A.A. could not be heard unless a properly chosen Conference were fully trusted to speak for it respecting most matters of world service. Hence the principle of amply delegated authority and responsibility to “trusted servants” must be implicit from the top to the bottom of our active structure of service. This is the clear implication of A.A.’s Tradition Two.

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section*

# AA GRAPEVINE



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

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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



FEBRUARY 2022 | GETTING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES | INTO ACTION

## Confessions of a cookie longtimer

BY: SANDY A. | SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

*Out of all the service positions in which she got to serve, this one was by far the sweetest*

A friend in my morning home group asked me one day if I would be interested in starting a new evening meeting, saying, “Wouldn’t it nice to bracket our day with a ‘harmony meeting’?”

Our meeting’s morning format focuses on how to live the day successfully and how to develop a spiritual way of life. In a new evening meeting, we could reflect on how we lived that day successfully and examine which spiritual tools of the program we used to do it. My friend asked me to be the secretary and he offered to be the treasurer. We agreed to try it, wondering if two people with only nine months of sobriety should be doing this.

Our first meeting had five people and grew to a regular 25 members. In addition to the usual service positions, we thought it would be nice to have cookies at the meeting, so my friend tried his hand at baking chocolate chip cookies from scratch.

I don’t know what he did but these cookies were consistently horrible in inconsistent ways. One time they were so hard that even saliva and hot coffee couldn’t soften them. Another time they looked like cow

dung and were so salty that we had to spit them out into our coffee cups and napkins.

To remedy the situation, I offered to bring the cookies next time. I found some gourmet cookie dough at a market nearby. I put the pre-formed balls of dough on a cookie sheet and baked them as close to the beginning of the meeting as I dared so that I’d arrive with them still warm from the oven. They were quite popular. People began to anticipate them and jumped up from their seats and ran to the kitchen when I arrived.

In the spirit of rotation in service assignments, I tried to give the cookie commitment to others who forgot about it or brought inferior commercial bakery products. Pride had me take the commitment back for another year. I then served the group as treasurer and Hospitals and Institutions Coordinator. In time, I thought I needed to stop bringing the cookies and so for a while there were no cookies.

One day a fellow came back to the group for a visit and asked, “Whatever happened to those wonderful cookies?” He admitted in his share that when he was new those cookies were the only things that kept him coming back to AA. Understanding that this is a program of attraction, I broke my self-imposed cookie break and brought the commitment back once again.

For the next three years, I diligently brought fresh cookies still warm from the oven every Monday night that I could. I also served on the Public Information committee and the Cooperation with the Elderly Community committee. The appreciation and love that I had for my home group expressed in a freshly baked cookie unleashed a flood of love and appreciation from others in turn. I often heard during shares, “Whoever made these delicious

cookies, thank you!” I was impressed with how much this simple gesture meant to others.

At one point the market where I bought my cookie dough closed and the alternate store’s gourmet brand was discontinued. I had to take my cookie commitment to a higher level and make my own dough. Around that time, I was serving as an alternate GSR, a GSR and a Grapevine/LaViña committee member. One day a returning member shared that he had relapsed and had been in prison. In the kitchen, he told me he had dreamed about those cookies for three years and he couldn’t wait to return to this meeting.

That made me so grateful that I was still here, and still making cookies for my home group. What had started out with mixed motivation for me had transformed into such a beautiful thing.

Nowadays, I am the only founding member who still comes to the meeting regularly. Two of the other five are still sober, but there are many more who have achieved sobriety in our meeting and call it their home group. It’s such a sweet experience for me to see others recover and to feel a part of that. I now have the honor of serving as the chair of one of our area’s standing committees. This is only because I showed up consistently at the committee meetings.

Being of service keeps me sober and deepens the quality of my sobriety, but the value of long-term commitment I learned from a cookie.

*Group Contributions — January 2022*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Y to D</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Y to D</b>
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	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$0.00
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>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
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
<b>Fresh Start</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	Port Arthur	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Serenity</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Jasper Noon</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>St Francis</b>	<b>\$89.09</b>	<b>\$89.09</b>
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Kirbyville</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	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	\$0.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,229.09</b>	<b>\$1,229.09</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@aa Beaumont.org — Web: aa Beaumont.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. Come to the next District 90 GSR Meeting

## *Announcements*

### **Next District 90 GSR Meeting**

**March 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**

**April 24, 2022 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**





# June 17-19 2022

Austin Hilton in downtown Austin

550 East Fourth Street

Austin, TX 78701

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## Schedule of Events

### Friday, June 17:

**4:00** – Registration & Hospitality Open

**6:00** – Old Timers Panel

**8:00** – AA Speaker – Erica B.

### Saturday, June 18:

**8:00** – Registration opens

**8:30** – Delegates Panel & GSO Speaker – Beau B.

**10:00** – AA Speaker – Lillie H.

**11:30** – Texas Area Delegate Meeting

**1:00** – Alanon Speaker

**2:30** – AA Speaker – Tim R.

**4:00** – Corrections Panel

**5:30** – AA Speaker – Bob B.

**8:30** – “Decades of Dance” We will be taking you on a musical dance journey from the '60s to the present day! We encourage dressing up for the decade, 60's, 70's, 80's, etc.

### Sunday, June 19

**8:30-10:00** – Open Meeting with timer hosted by Toni J.

**10:30** – AA Speaker – Georgia B.



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



## SETA Assembly Dates

**2022**

**April 9-10**

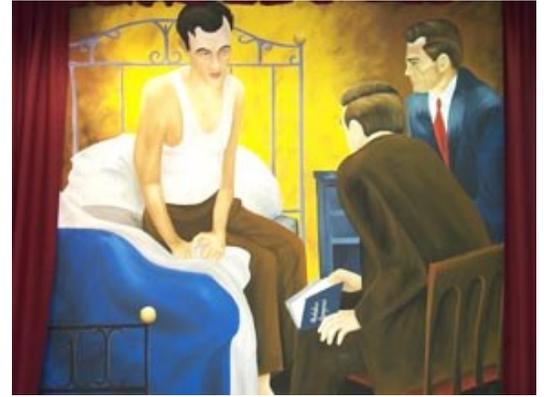
**July 9-10**

**October 1-2**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
Houston Intercontinental**

**15747 JFK Boulevard  
Houston, Texas, 77032, USA**

**281-848-4000**



**2nd Step Principle**

**Hope**

**2nd Promise**

**We will not regret the past nor wish to close the door on it.**



**We are not a  
glum lot.**