

## STEP 6

**“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”**

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults — *without reservations whatever* — has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can — and will, under certain conditions — remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this: “Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own willpower just wouldn’t work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends,

doctors, and clergymen got no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished, It was lifted right out of me.

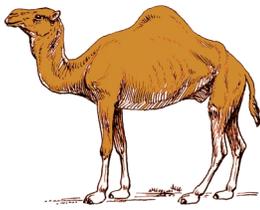
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 63*

## TRADITION 6 LONG FORM

**“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places or recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. — and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. A.A. group can bind itself to no one. ”**

*The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.*

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 155*



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 6—Tradition 6	1
Concept VI	2
Stories (Grapevine)	3
Contributions	4
District Meetings, Mustard Seed Group 16th Anniversary	5
41st Annual District 90 Convention	6
6th Promise, 6th Principle, SETA Assembly Dates	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 VI

*On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.*

Just as the A.A. Groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act freely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself.

This critical need for Trustee liberty of action raises several important questions. Next to the Conference, A.A.'s Board of Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants that we have, and therefore we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at top effectiveness over the years to come. We shall need to review and perhaps amend somewhat our present methods of choosing Trustees. We shall need to define clearly the several kinds of professional and financial skills that will always be required for a balanced trusteeship. Only by so doing can we permanently insure the Board's capability of future leadership.

In order to avoid continuous confusion, it will also be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference and just how they in turn should relate themselves to their active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. (including its division of A.A. Publishing) and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., our monthly magazine .

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section*



# AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous <http://www.aagrapevine.org/>



JUNE 2022 | STORIES BY LONG-TIMERS!

## *51 years of peeling the onion*

BY: DICK J. | RIVERSIDE, CALIF.

For as long as I can remember, I didn't fit in with other people and I didn't want to. In fact, I wanted to prove that I could do things better than anyone.

I'll never forget when I was 4, I climbed into a cardboard box that my dad had just put in a lighted fire pit. That was the first time that I heard a "still small voice" tell me to get out of the box, which exploded into flames a split second later. I did not listen to that voice again for a very long time.

My first real drunk was in 1966 at the end of my first year of college. I was 19. I drank a gallon of beer in 20 minutes. I loved the feeling of being out of my mind, and I remember thinking, Where have you been all of my life? I stayed as drunk as possible that summer, continued drinking and flunked out by Thanksgiving.

In 1967 I joined the Navy. I spent a year off the coast of Vietnam in 1968 and drank aboard ship. During a two-year stint in Naples, Italy, I was drunk on at least 500 nights. In 1970 I fell in lust with a married woman who had separated from her husband. At Christmas she told me that she had decided to stay with her husband. A week later, blind drunk, I threw a friend through a plate glass door. He was trying to stop me from killing the woman's husband. As I saw my friend unconscious on the ground, I had a moment. Instead of justifying my drinking as I usually did, I was given a gift of self-realization. I admitted that I didn't know how to live. I knew then that I could never drink safely again. That was January of 1971, and with the grace of God and AA, I've been sober ever since.

At first, I believed that abstinence and service were all I needed to stay sober, so

I made the decision to concentrate on the first half of the First Step: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol."

When I was a year sober I got married and found out that I was terrified of intimacy. The only place where I felt safe was at AA meetings, so I went to five or six of them a week. She and I and her son were living in Hawaii then.

When I had about five years sober, I noticed that although I would come home from work at 4:30 P.M. my wife would always be at our neighbor's house, and she'd stay there until about 7:00. I kept asking her why she was always over there and after about six months she finally told me. "The neighbors appreciate me as a person and you don't," she said. "They enjoy my sense of humor and you're threatened by it. The neighbors let me have the last word and you never do." Then she got to the heavier matters. "I thought you would learn to love me, but the only thing you love is yourself," she added. "And if I weren't on this island, I would leave you because I'm getting nothing from you."

I had no smart comeback to that. What went through my mind was the second half of the First Step. My life was unmanageable—drunk or sober. That got my attention. Right away I asked a person who lived and breathed the Steps to be my sponsor. I joined a Step study group, became a daily meeting-goer and started rereading the Big Book. I was struck by the chapter to the agnostic: "Deep down in every man, woman and child is the fundamental idea of God. It may be obscured by calamity, by pomp and by worship of other things, but in some form or other it is there."

Once I began trying not to use calamity, pomp and worship of other things to make me feel good, a sense of peace came over me. I heard that still small voice I had say, "There is nothing wrong with you. Let me take care of you—and you try to take care of others." For the first time in sobriety, my skin seemed to fit. This sense of peace allowed me to take the Second and Third Steps on the spot.

I then began doing my Fourth Step by taking an inventory of my calamity, pomp and worship of other things. This showed me the pattern in my thinking that was blocking me from a power greater than myself. "Calamity" means that I experience events or feelings that are overwhelming to the point of despair. "Pomp" blocks me from my still small voice by having an attitude that puts me in competition with others and keeps me

apart from them. "Worship of other things" means using my intellect, the ability to manipulate others and what I possess to keep me apart from my spirituality. Doing the Fifth Step with my sponsor was the first time that I had been totally honest.

For me, the Sixth and Seventh Steps have been like peeling an onion. My defects of character arise when calamity, pomp and worship of other things obscure the "great reality" inside me. When I try to make that great reality more of a working part of my mind, a layer of the onion is peeled away, and I can surrender more of my own perspective and rely on that still small voice.

In the Steps dealing with amends, I focused first on my wife and adopted son. It took two years for my wife to trust the psychic change in me. Once she came to trust me, the intimacy between us became a reflection of my trust in my still small voice instead of my own thinking.

Soon after in 1979, I had a powerful Step Eleven experience. I had been doing the Steps for about two years when my wife gave birth to another son. He was premature. On the third day of our boy's life, a cardiologist told me that he had a three-chambered heart. The doctor asked a question that no parent wants to hear: What steps should they take if his condition became critical? I was dumbfounded. Before I could reply, the still small voice in me said, "Do whatever it takes to keep him alive."

My pain was so great, I could not see my new son even though I loved him dearly. I knew I was in trouble spiritually. I sat down and prayed the Eleventh Step prayer, asking only for the knowledge of God's will for me and the power to carry that out. What came back in meditation was this: "What makes you think you have a guarantee you'll always be with the ones you love? The only thing certain in life is my love for you and your love for me. With that you can handle anything." I stood up and went to my son's side and comforted my wife by holding her without saying a word. Our son Daniel lived a week. He and God gave me an unforgettable gift—treat everyone as precious.

The Twelfth Step is the action that allows my skin to continue to fit in sobriety for 51 years now. Carrying this message to others and practicing these AA principles in all my affairs has been the great joy of my life. And to this day, the only thing that is certain is God's love for me and my love for him. And with that I can handle anything.

## Group Contributions May 2022

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00
A New Beginning	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton SOP	\$0.00	\$160.00
Any Lengths	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County	\$0.00	\$40.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$804.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Orange</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Pecan Groves</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
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	\$100.00	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	Serenity	\$0.00	\$400.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$400.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$689.09
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$211.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$200.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>West End</b>	<b>\$96.15</b>	<b>\$221.15</b>
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Liberty</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$176.15</b>	<b>\$3,435.24</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 — E-mail: [steppingstones@abeaumont.org](mailto:steppingstones@abeaumont.org) — Web: [abeaumont.org](http://abeaumont.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 2407  
James A. Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407

## 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

June 26, 2022 At 2:00 PM  
West End Group  
1235 Crockett Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

### Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

July 17, 2022 At 2:00 PM  
West End Group  
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

## MUSTARD SEED GROUP

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Saturday

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

6:00 pm- Food and Fellowship

7:00 pm- Speaker Cassidy R.

Bring a dish if you wish!



Mustard Seed meets every Tuesday at 7PM  
Birthday night- last Tuesday of the month  
at Westgate Memorial Baptist Church  
6220 Westgate Dr, Beaumont, TX 77706





## 41st ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 19, 20 & 21, 2022

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</b></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Hilary R Dallas, Tx          Fri. 10:00 PM AA Dan J Nederland, Tx          Sat. 8:30 AM AFG Four Faces of Al-Anon          Sat. 10:00 AM AA Yolanda L Houston, Tx (SPANISH)          Sat. 12:30 PM AFG (Alateen) TBD          Sat. 01:00 PM AFG (Alanon) TBD          Sat. 03:00 PM AA STEP WORKSHOP          Sat. 04:30 PM AA Old Timers          Sat. 08:00 PM AA Kent C Sandusky, Oh          Sat. 10:00 PM Dance          Sun. 10:00 AM AA Gary K Sulphur Springs, Tx</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL &amp; CONFERENCE CENTER</b>          2355 I-10 Access Rd SOUTH          (GPS) 1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705          409-842-3600          ROOM RATE - \$99 PER NIGHT / \$129 SUITE PER NIGHT          EARLY DEADLINE - 8-05-2021</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ONSITE REGISTRATION</b></p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 31, (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)<sup>†</sup>          Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea. Alateen: \$ 5 ea.          Dance only: \$ 5 ea. Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</p> <p>Dance admission included with convention registration          *"Dance only" tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night</p>
---	--

Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social



Name1 : _____ Email Address: _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen <sup>1</sup> Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter ___Spanish Translator ___Special Accom/Need	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen <sup>1</sup> Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter ___Spanish Translator ___Special Accom/Need																		
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Pre-Registration:</b></td> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Amt. Enclosed:</b></td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Sponsorship Donation</td> <td>\$ _____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b></td> <td>\$ _____</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Pre-Registration:</b>	<b>Amt. Enclosed:</b>		{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____		{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____		{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____		{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____		<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$ _____		MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:  <b>District 90 Convention Treasurer</b> <b>PO Box 1591</b> <b>Groves, TX 77619</b>
<b>Pre-Registration:</b>	<b>Amt. Enclosed:</b>																		
{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____																		
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____																		
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____																		
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____																		
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$ _____																		

We urge everyone to pre-register and to book any rooms before the July cut-off date where possible. This helps keep registration fees low/max. convention exp./hospitality/available scholarships—that we may Serve and Carry the Message.



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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

**Mid County Group - June Birthdays**

- Scott 1 yr
- Debbie B. 25 yrs
- Randy H. 13 yrs
- Rusty R. 2 yrs
- John S. 2 yrs

**SETA Assembly Dates**

**2022**

**April 9-10**

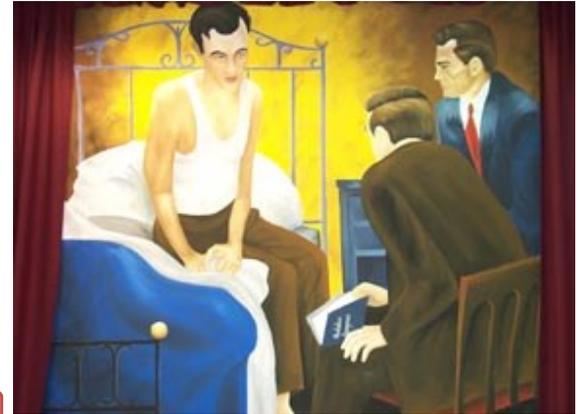
**July 9-10**

**October 1-2**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
Houston Intercontinental**

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

**281-848-4000**



**6th Step Principle**

**Willingness**

**6th Promise**

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.



**We are not a  
glum lot.**