

Step 7

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

Since this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it means to us.

Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.’s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.’s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven’t much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it, they cannot live to much useful

purpose, or, in adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.

Humility, as a word and as an ideal, has a very bad time of it in our world. Not only is the idea misunderstood; the word itself is often intensely disliked. Many people haven’t even a nodding acquaintance with humility as a way of life. Much of the everyday talk we hear, and a great deal of what we read, highlights man’s pride in his own achievements.

With great intelligence, men of science have been forcing nature to disclose her secrets. The im-

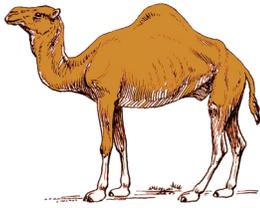
mense resources now being harnessed promise such a quantity of material blessings that many have come to believe that a man-made millennium lies just ahead. Poverty will disappear, and there will be such abundance that everybody can have all the security and personal satisfactions he desires. The theory seems to be that once everybody’s primary instincts are satisfied, there won’t be much left to quarrel about.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 70

Tradition 7 Long Form

“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligations whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A. A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”

Self-supporting alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that’s what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that A.A. has wrought in all of us. Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can’t cure. Always, we’ve had our hands out. Time out of mind we’ve been dependent upon somebody, usually money-wise. When a society composed entirely of alcoholics says it’s going to pay it’s bills, that’s really news.



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 VII

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section

This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services, while on the other hand we find that A.A.'s General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them—practically speaking.

This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate—viz., the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves. Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking it has all of the ultimate rights and powers that it may ever need.

When we reflect that our Trustees have no salaried financial interest in their posts, we can be quite sure that such a Board would never think of legally contesting the clear and sustained will of the Conference Delegates and the A.A. areas they represent.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

Grapevine Online Exclusive



JULY 2022 | THE ANNUAL PRISON ISSUE | ON THE COVER

Back to jail

BY: DANI M. | CHARLEROI, PA.

She knew what she had to do. Little did she know it would open a door to something she loves

My first experience with AA in jail came when I got slapped with a habitual-offender offense for drinking and driving. My first two offenses came with lenient sentences.

This time however, they threw me in a pod with a bunch of ladies who sat around in circles several times a day chanting rules and prayers. I was told I didn't have to participate unless I thought I was an alcoholic. I could watch TV if I preferred, provided I kept the volume way down so I wouldn't interrupt the meeting. Only one other girl there was granted this same "freedom." She and I got special privileges and I was really glad I didn't have to be a part of that cult.

Soon I was moved to a new pod—one that was loud and crazy, with cussing, name-calling, contraband and fighting. The at-

mosphere in this pod was much different than the one I had come from. I figured I'd just keep to myself, do my time and get out of there as soon as I could so I could put this jail thing behind me. I stayed for 10 days, paid fines and was mandated to attend AA meetings as part of my release from jail.

When I got out, I forged signatures on my AA meeting slips and failed breathalyzers in my DUI classes. I lost my license and eventually my job, since I always smelled like alcohol. I now had the opportunity to move back to my home state and be near my family again. I soon found my old home to be a great place—a great place to drink. Liquor got ahold of me once again and took me down for the last time. I got so bad I was almost dead. I needed help. When I went to an AA meeting, I had no memory of heading back to what I had thought was a cult, but I had no choice. I had to seek help or just give up and die.

I looked at the banners of the Steps hanging on the wall and I knew right there that Step Nine was going to cost me money and probably some jail time. At three years sober, I got to cash in on the suspended jail time that hung over my head for not successfully completing my DUI classes in that other state. I packed my bags, jumped on a plane and went to make my amends. I spent a whole day trying to go

before a judge who would hear my plea. Finally, I got to go to jail.

After my release, I signed up to be an AA volunteer to take meetings into our county jail. Besides carrying the message of hope inside, I wanted to help make sure other alcoholics who were incarcerated did not look at AA meetings behind bars as a cult the way I once did. I loved service work and wanted to step up my game in sobriety. I began taking meetings into a maximum security, all-male facility and I still do so today. The guys in that group are amazing

One day I dropped my motorcycle in an accident and broke my leg and was unable to attend the prison meetings for a few months. I felt depressed about missing my fellow alcoholics behind bars. The guys heard I wasn't doing my best and they got together and sent me a get-well card. It was signed by all the members of that group. It even included a little joke, written by one of the guys, which read, "And you're supposed to teach us about balance?" These guys are not a glum lot!

Later I moved on to service as an area corrections chair. I'm so glad I'm able to give back to alcoholics behind the walls who need us. More of us should do this type of service. I like to think of the joy it brings me as the "thirteenth promise."

Group Contributions — June 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	Orange	\$20.00	\$120.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$10.00	\$20.00
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	\$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	\$480.00	\$880.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$400.00	St Francis	\$300.00	\$989.09
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	West End	\$0.00	\$221.15
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$100.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$810.00	\$4,245.24

**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 — 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

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

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

August 7, 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

16TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Saturday

July 16th, 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

MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

2355 I-10

Beaumont, Texas 77705

409-842-3600

Room Rate - \$99 Per Night / \$129 Suite Per Night

Early Deadline – 8/5/2022

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Friday	8:00 PM	AA	Hilary R., Dallas, Tx
Friday	10:00 PM	AA	Dan J., Nederland, Tx
Saturday	8:30 AM	AFG	Four Faces of Al-Anon
Saturday	10:00 AM	AA	Yolanda L., Houston, Tx (SPANISH)
Saturday	12:30 PM	AFG	(Alateen) TBD
Saturday	1:00 PM	AFG	(Alanon) TBD
Saturday	3:00 PM	AA	STEP WORKSHOP
Saturday	4:30 PM	AA	Old Timers
Saturday	8:00 PM	AA	Kent C., Sandusky, Oh
Saturday	10:00 PM		Dance
Sunday	10:00 AM	AA	Gary K., Sulphur Springs, Tx



[Scan to Register Online](#)

Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 2:00 PM
 AA/ Al-Anon: 12 ea. Alateen: \$ 5 ea.
 Dance only: 5 ea. Coffee: Incl. w/ registration
 Dance admission included with convention registration
 *"Dance only" tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat. night





Happy Birthday To You!!!

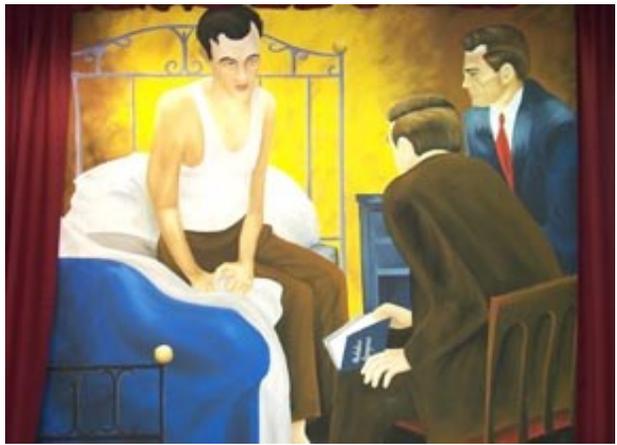
Intergroup would like to congratulate everyone who is celebrating a birthday in July !!!

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

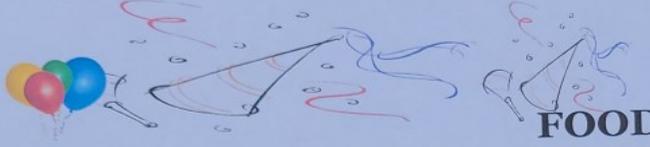
281-848-4000



7th Step Principle Humility

7th Promise

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

FUN  **FOOD**

Westend Group
 1235 Crockett St
 Beaumont, TX
Trust God Clean House
Help Others

62nd
ANNIVERSARY
July 30, 2022

12 pm-9 pm

Speakers
 Old-timer's Panel
 History
 Dinner will be served
 Birthday Celebration to follow!

Raffles  

Come Fellowship With Us!!!!!!





We are not a glum lot.