

## Step 8

**“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”**

*“Steps Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our newfound knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.*

*This is a very large order. It is a task which we may perform with increasing skill, but never really finish. Learning how to live in the greatest peace, partnership, and*

*brotherhood with all men and women, of whatever description, is a moving and fascinating adventure. Every A.A. has found that he can make little headway in this new adventure of living until he first backtracks and really makes an accurate and unsparing survey of the human wreckage he has left in his wake. To a degree, he has already done this when taking moral inventory, but now the time has come when he ought to redouble his efforts to see how many people he has hurt, and in what ways. This reopening of emotional wounds, some old, some perhaps forgotten, and some still painfully*

*festering, will at first look like a purposeless and pointless piece of surgery. But if a willing start is made, then the great advantages of doing this will so quickly reveal themselves that the pain will be lessened as one obstacle after another melts away.*

*These obstacles, however, are very real. The first, and one of the most difficult, has to do with forgiveness. The moment we ponder a twisted or broken relationship with another person, our emotions go on the defensive.”*

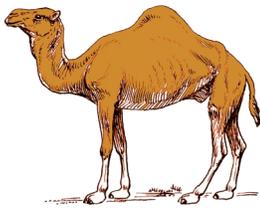
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 77-78*

## Tradition 8 Long Form

**“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.”**

*“ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words, “Freely ye have received, freely give.” we have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world’s best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: Our single purpose has been defeated.*

*Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an A.A. talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single newcomer, it can have a very bad effect on him, too. The money motive compromised him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few A.A.’s have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee.”*



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 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 VIII

**“The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 31 of the Concepts Section*

“Since our Trustees bear the primary responsibility for the good conduct of all our world service affairs, this discussion deals with the basic concepts and methods by which they can best discharge their heavy obligations. Long experience has not proved that our Board as a whole must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger and more serious questions of policy, finance, group relations, public relations and leadership that constantly confront it. In *these more critical matters*, the Board must of course function with great care and deliberation. Here the Board is expected skillfully to *plan, manage, and execute*.

It follows, therefore, that the close attention of the Board to such larger problems must not be subject to constant distraction and interference. Our Trustees, as a body, cannot be burdened with a mass of lesser matters; they must not concern themselves with the endless questions and difficulties which arise daily, weekly and monthly in the routine conduct of the World Service Office and of our publishing enterprises. In these areas the Board cannot possibly manage and conduct in detail; it must delegate its executive function.

Here the Board’s attitude has to be that of custodial oversight; it cannot be the executive. Hence the Trustees are the guarantors of the good management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. They discharge their custodial obligation by electing the directors of these services, a part of whom must always be Trustees.”

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 31 of the Concepts Section*

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

## To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



AUGUST 2022 | SOBER TRAVEL |

### The Medicine My Heart Needed

BY: VALERIE T. | SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

*How do we find forgiveness when it seems nearly impossible? One member reaches out for help*

What happens when I don't owe an amend because I haven't wronged the other person? They were the one who wronged me. How do I forgive?

In AA, when I get hurt I can talk to my sponsor and my sober sisters to feel better. They know me and direct me accordingly. I will usually write about it and then talk about it some more, and then pray. I take actions so my character defects don't act out. I can take things too far and then my side of the street gets muddy. I hate having to make amends because I couldn't keep my mouth shut.

I've learned to do the work first, pause, pray and do the Steps, so when I approach someone to make an amend,

I'm coming from a spiritual place. It can be exhausting.

Not long ago, I had a very tricky situation come up in AA. I was at my home group, and I looked up to see the man who had raped me in the last days of my drinking. He was a new-comer. I was stunned. I immediately went over to a woman and asked her to be my safe person. We went to a safe place, and I told her what had happened.

God was working in my life, because she told me the very same thing had happened to her. She had the experience, strength and hope that I needed right then. What are the odds of that happening? I didn't know this woman all that well and I don't know why I made her my safe person other than there must have been a power greater than myself guiding me. After talking to her, I gathered some of my sober sisters and we went over to one of their homes nearby. I was not alone.

The next few days, I prayed a lot. I talked to my sponsor and we came up with a solution that felt safe, but ultimately she said it was my decision. I'm not going to get into what happened or why this was the best course of action. You will just have to believe me when I say this was a solution that was signed off on by more than just me.

I finally decided that he needed AA and that I could afford him the same chance at sobriety I

had. He could also have anonymity. I allowed him to have my home group. I go to a lot of meetings, so dropping this one right now and embracing a different meeting as my home group was something I could do. It was a hard pill to swallow. I felt like he had taken so much from me already. But AA had been there for me at my bottom, and something in me said AA needed to be there for him now. I walked away. I neither accepted nor rejected him. I just allowed him to find his path without me in it.

Forgiveness is hard. It's the ultimate in letting go. Walking away without a word to him was one of the most spiritual things I feel I've ever done. I forgave him and I didn't do anything that involved him. The power of that altered everything in me. I don't think about him anymore. He no longer comes up on Fourth Steps. I don't owe him an amend; I don't need him to make amends to me. That's between him and his sponsor and his Higher Power. I have given all I have to give.

The Ninth Step is about making things right. I don't need him to make things right. I made them right. Forgiveness has been the medicine my heart needed to move toward health, happiness and love. I now get the opportunity to use this experience to help other women let go, forgive and live their lives sober, happy, joyous and free. AA gave me...me.

**Group Contributions — July 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
<b>Anahuac</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>	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>\$140.00</b>
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Pecan Groves</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</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	\$880.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$400.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$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	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$4,395.24</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@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 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  
September 11, 2022**

**West End Group**

**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

**Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting  
October 16, 2022 at 2:00 PM**

**West End Group**

**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

## **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**

**LIFE WILL MEAN SOMETHING AT LAST**

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

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

RECOVERY

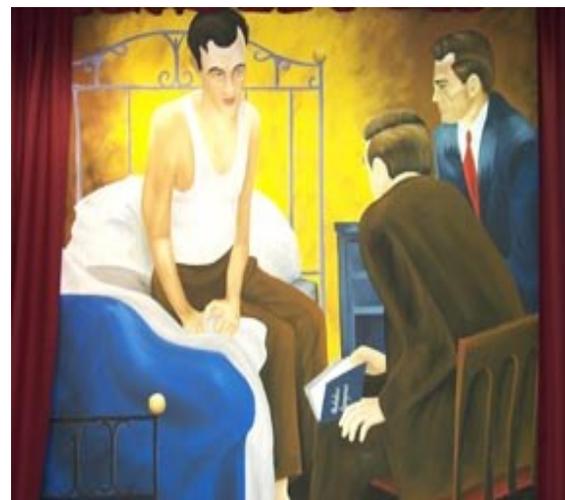
<p>Name 1 : _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen<sup>†</sup></p> <p><i>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter ___Spanish Translator ___Special Accom/Need</i></p>	<p>Name 2: _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen<sup>†</sup></p> <p><i>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter ___Spanish Translator ___Special Accom/Need</i></p>
<p><b>Pre-Registration:</b></p> <p>{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each \$ _____</p> <p>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each \$ _____</p> <p>{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each \$ _____</p> <p>{ } Sponsorship Donation \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____</p>	<p><b>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>District 90 Convention Treasurer</b>                  PO Box 1591                  Groves, TX 77619</p>



*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.*

**Pre-Registration ends July 31, (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)<sup>†</sup>**

**Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 2:00 PM**



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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



**8th Step Principle  
Reflection  
Brotherly Love**

**8th Promise  
Self-seeking will  
slip away.**

Mid-County Group

August Birthdays

Chuck 9 yrs

Richard Y 8 yrs

Logan L 1 yr

Jon R 1 yr

Kaytee Mc 37 yrs

AB 23 yrs

Dona N 33 yrs



**We are not a  
glum lot.**