

Step 10

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

One of the worse hangers that I can ever have in life is anger. This is something that I must take care of real fast, not let it go on for days or even hours. I am very aware of how I treat people and when I lay my head down at night and I can't go right to sleep, there is something the matter with the way I have lived my life that day. Time to take that daily inventory. There are times when I have to do this as the day goes on. If I am feeling overwhelmed (spot check).

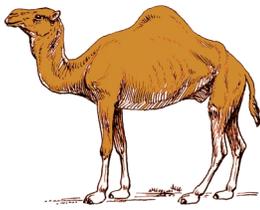
Having been in this program for some time now I know that I have to do this step all the time (every day). I have had to make this a daily thing in my life. At first I thought this was going to be a drag, until I realized how good it made me feel at the end of the day and during the day. This does not mean that people don't hurt me, but I have learned not to lash back, I gain a lot more with love than anger. For me it is a bad day when I don't tell someone that I love them, as most of

you well know. I have learned that love is a lot more than what I grew up with. Today I know that I love you for no other reason than because you are you. This step has also shown me the good side of me also, things that I have done well today. I always try to look at both sides of the day the good and the bad, and thank God for sitting beside me all day, and you know what? I slept pretty well last night!

Anonymous Story

Tradition 10 Long Form

“No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever. “



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 X

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority—the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.

Nearly all societies and governments of today exhibit serious deviations from the very sound principle that *each operational responsibility* must be accompanied by a *corresponding authority* to discharge it. This is why we have been at such pains in preceding discussions to define the several authorities and responsibilities of the A.A. groups, the Conference, the Trustees, and our active service corporations. We have tried to make sure that authority in each of these levels is equal to responsibility. Then we have tried to relate these levels one to another in such a way that this principle is maintained throughout. An outstanding characteristic of every good operational structure is that it guarantees harmonious and effective function by relating its several parts and people in such a way that none can doubt what their respective responsibilities and corresponding authorities actually are. Unless these attributes are well defined; unless those holding the final authority are able and willing properly to delegate and maintain a suitable operational authority; unless those holding such delegate authority feel able and willing to use their delegated authority freely as trusted servants; and unless there exists some definite means of interpreting and deciding doubtful situations— then personal clashes, confusion, and ineffectiveness will be inevitable.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.



The 60th SETA Convention is coming to the MCM Elegante Hotel , Beaumont, TX, January 13-15, 2023

AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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OCTOBER 2022 | RELAPSE | ON THE COVER

Tough Love

BY: LYNNE W. | BILLINGS, MONT

The kindness kept her coming, but it was the members who told her the truth that saved her life

Relapse is a big part of my story. For my first year and a half in AA, I did not stay sober between meetings. At one point, I stopped picking up 24-hour chips because I accepted that I was going to drink on my way home from the meeting.

Still, the people in my local AA community just told me to keep coming back. I remember specifically hearing about the Third Tradition, which states that all an alcoholic needs is the desire to stop drinking in order to be welcomed into the rooms.

Oldtimers pointed out that if an alcoholic could quit drinking by themselves, he or she wouldn't need AA. They said we all find AA at different times of our drinking lives and sometimes we find the program while still drunk. It was me they were talking about because I was sitting there half drunk in the meeting. I was a living, breathing example of the Traditions in action and they

made sure to point that out.

I have since learned that I was a chameleon. I had gotten through my entire life by blending into my environment. But when I got to AA I didn't understand that the people in meetings could see right through that. They've seen chameleons like me before.

They know the difference between quoting the Big Book and actually living the Steps. I didn't know at the time that I wasn't fooling any of them. They weren't inviting me back for the pearls of wisdom contained in what I shared; they were inviting me back hoping I'd finally get the message that would save my life.

During that year and a half, the polite waiting game played by some of my home group members began to wear off. These were the members who saved my life. I kept coming back because of the unconditional love, but it was the tough love that got through to me.

They didn't mince words about what made a strong meeting. I was welcomed to attend and encouraged to return, but they didn't want to hear a lot of what I had to say. They could see my misery on my face. They didn't need to spend any of the precious 60 minutes of the meeting hearing my drunk talk. At one point, when I did share, this one man told me that the program works better if you stay sober between meetings.

One typical night, I picked up what was probably my 100th 24-hour chip and bored the other members with a long, maudlin

share on how "I really mean it this time." A lady stopped me after the meeting to say encouraging things to me. "Keep coming back," she said. "It'll be OK." As she walked off, a guy standing nearby looked at me and said, "No, it won't. It will never be OK for you if you keep doing what you're doing. Keep coming back but know that it will never be alright if you keep listening to your own ideas."

Another time, a meeting elder said I was totally full of you-know-what. I actually tried to argue with him. Eventually, I did shut up long enough to hear the message that would save my life. I stopped trying to fake it or work a program I made up in my head. In the end, I did exactly what the Big Book said to do. I learned through hard-won experience that any idea I have that I can drink successfully will end in disaster. I spent my first year and a half in AA drinking, thanks in part to all my wonderful ideas.

Since I've been sober, I have felt compelled to remind people at meetings about the Third Tradition, just as someone did for me. I watch sponsees struggle with the sobriety part of our program, and I love them when they come back. I know I can't keep them sober because my first sponsor couldn't keep me sober either.

I like to tell people that Bill knew what he was talking about in the Third Tradition. If an alcoholic is in the rooms of AA and can't quit drinking, then the best place for that alcoholic to be is right here in the rooms of AA.

Group Contributions — September 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	\$120.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$1,146.00
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	\$180.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$10.00	\$50.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Personal Stories Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$100.00	\$200.00	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	\$643.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$150.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$130.00	\$5,590.24

**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: 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

9th 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
November 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
October 16, 2022 at 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

ST. FRANCIS 31ST ANNIVERSARY
OCT. 15, 2022
 6:00 Fellowship
 6:30 Eat
 7:30 Speaker
COVERED DISH DINNER
MEAT PROVIDED
Child care provided
SPEAKER: KARL M. FROM COVINA, CA
 In the Cafeteria
 Wesley UMC
 CORNER OF MAJOR DRIVE & FOLSOM

DISTRICT 90 ANNUAL
GRATITUDE
in action
Dinner

SPEAKER-RAFFLE-FOOD
NOVEMBER 12TH
4:00pm - 9:00pm

Tickets
\$10

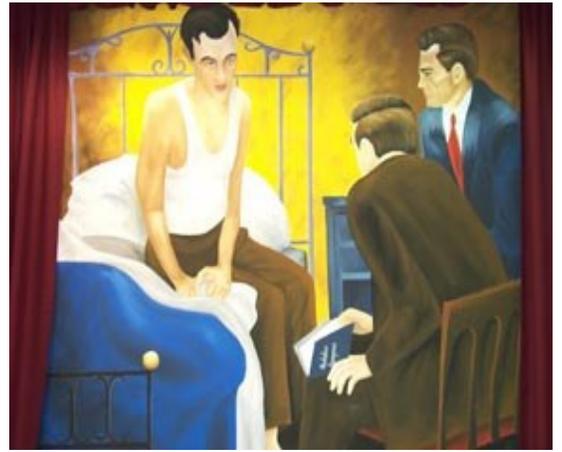
- 4:30pm - Alanon Speaker
- 6:00pm - Dinner
- 7:00pm - Raffle
- 7:30pm - AA Speaker

Door Prizes and a 50/50 raffle, so bring extra cash!

CARL PARKER CENTER
1800 LAKESHORE DR., PORT ARTHUR, TX 77640

Monetary donations can be mailed to the Port Arthur Group, 548 W 11th Street, Port Arthur, TX 77640

CASHAPP TO \$PORTARTHURGROUP



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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

Traditions Workshop

Host Group TLC

October 15, 2022

12:30pm - 3:30pm

West End Group Bldg.

1235 Crockett

Beaumont, Texas

Food will be provided starting @ 12:30pm

For more information, and to volunteer to participate please contact:

Ginna M. @ 713-301-8255

Kelsey J. @ 281-536-9953

A.A.'s Twelve Traditions apply to the life of the Fellowship itself. They outline the means by which A.A. maintains its unity and relates itself to the world about it, the way it lives and grows.

Step 10 Principles:

⇒ PERSEVERANCE

⇒ DISCIPLINE

⇒ OPEN-MINDEDNESS

10th Promise

**Fear of People and of
Economic Insecurity
Will Leave Us**

Tenth Step Prayer

(Growth)

I pray, God,
that
You remove
my
selfishness,
dishonesty,
resentment and fear.