



## Step 12

**“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”**

The joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards.

Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety.

When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening. To new A.A.'s, this often seems like a very dubious and improbable state of affairs.

“What do you mean when you talk about a 'spiritual awakening'?” they ask.

Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others.

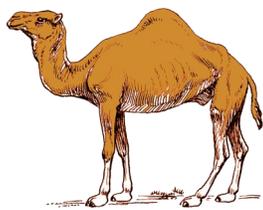
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—  
Pg. 106*

## Tradition 12

**“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”**

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.'s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 184*



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 XII

**“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Traditions, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 60*

*The Concept here considered consists of Article 12 of the Conference Charter. There are good reasons for placing it in this context.*

*Taken as a whole, our Conference Charter is the substance of an informal agreement, which was made between the A.A. groups and their trustees in 1955. It is the agreed basis upon which the General Service Conference operates. In part, the Charter is an elastic document; its first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself at any time.*

**But Article 12 of the Charter stands in a class by itself. An amendment or a cancellation of any of its vital Warranties would require the written consent of three quarters of all the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals, and the considerable time of six months is allowed for careful deliberation. (This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.) Although changes in the Warranties of Article 12 thus have been made difficult, they have not been made impossible.**

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.—pg. 60*

# AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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



## I Only Drank 3 Beers!

BY: LAURA W. | FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.

*One time I sat in a meeting called the Happy Hour Group and shared, "I want to be happy," which made everybody laugh.*

One time I sat in a meeting called the Happy Hour Group and shared, "I want to be happy," which made everybody laugh. Well, I certainly wasn't coming back to a group where they laughed at me! So I went back to my safe little group around the corner from my house.

I pretty much lived at that group, as I no longer trusted myself in my home, which had literally become my bar at the end of my drinking. I did not come into AA via treatment or suggestions from law enforcement. I knew at some level my soul was dying. I shook so badly I sat on my hands to stop them from shaking, which I now know can be dangerous.

I did not get a sponsor. I felt that I did not need another "parent." I read the Steps and was finished with them. When someone gave me their phone number, I in-

formed them I wasn't gay. I judged negatively anyone who spoke at meetings, and I did not make conscious contact with God, as he was surely busy helping others. Truth be told, I was mad as hell at all the gods! But I kept going to meetings because I knew no one would offer me a drink there.

Then one day someone made a comment I didn't like at a meeting. I was so mad that I "drank at" them. Does "I'll drink poison to make you die" sound familiar to anyone else? But I figured that since I only drank three beers, that meant I wasn't an alcoholic. I had three weeks sober, after all. I must be cured. Birds were flying out of the sky and landing on me, literally.

Yet the next morning, I found myself drinking Kentucky bourbon out of the bottle. I was in and out of consciousness most of the day. I do remember getting asked to leave a VFW hall due to my behavior. One thing I know is that drinking alcohol is like pouring Miracle Gro on your character defects.

I never want to forget how horrible I felt the next morning. My hair hurt and my eyes were swollen from crying. What I was crying about, I still have no idea. I felt like my tongue needed to be shaved and 1,000 pins were shooting out of every pore of my body. That's when I went back to AA and got my second and, I sincerely hope, last white chip.

I started taking all the AA suggestions a lot more seriously—

especially, "Take the cotton out of your ears and put it in your mouth." There were others, like, "If you don't pick up the first drink you won't get drunk," and, "If you sit in an airport for three months, you will not turn into a plane," and, "Give us three months of sincere effort, and if you choose to drink, we will refund your misery." Finally, "There's a wrench for every nut!" These comments are not in the Big Book, but they are the experience, strength and hope of members who came before me. I was also instructed to work the Traditions as hard as the Steps.

It has been many more 24 hours since I adopted this new way of life. I still remember the most burning question of all when I first got sober: "What's in it for me?" And I have definitely found the answer: A way to live life with coping skills other than my doctorate in being a smart you-know-what. I no longer isolate in a pity party of my own making, and I have found a kind of family in AA that I can count on. Most important of all, I know I'm never alone.

The riches I have found in my own heart are truly better than anything I've ever found in my pocket. I wish you all a slow recovery and all the blessings I have found. And I pray every day for continued enthusiasm for the program that saved my soul.

## Group Contributions — November, 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	<b>Mustard Seed</b>	<b>\$372.00</b>	<b>\$1,518.00</b>
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	\$0.00	\$200.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$60.00
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	\$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	\$477.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$200.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>West End</b>	<b>\$48.17</b>	<b>\$221.32</b>
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	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$420.17</b>	<b>\$6,258.41</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 — 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 Street  
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**

**January 8, 2023 At 2:00 PM**

**West End Group**

**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

### **Next 9th Dist.Intergroup Meeting**

**January 22, 2023 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**





# 60TH ANNUAL SETA CONVENTION

JANUARY 13th, 14th & 15th 2023 – Beaumont, Texas  
 "New World Came to View!" Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 12  
 Registration Closes Dec 30th, 2022

Registration  
 Pre-Registration - \$15.00  
 Al-Anon Pre-Registration - \$15.00  
 Virtual Attendance - \$10.00  
 \*Alateen/Child – Free (Must have permission slip)



<p><b>Friday - January 13th</b>                  8PM AA Speaker – TBD                  10PM – Spanish Speaker – TBD</p> <p><b>Saturday - January 14th</b>                  9AM – AA Speaker – TBD                  10:30AM – GSO Speaker – TBD                  1:00PM – Alateen Speaker – TBD                  1:30PM – TBD</p>	<p><b>Saturday - January 14th (continued)</b>                  3:00PM – CFC Speaker – TBD                  4:30PM Spanish Speaker – TBD                  7:30PM – Sobriety Countdown and Speaker – TBD                  9:30PM – Entertainment &amp; Dance</p> <p><b>Sunday - January 15th</b>                  11AM – AA Speaker – TBD</p>
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**Hotel:** MCM Elegante Hotel - 2355 I-10, Beaumont, TX 77705 Hotel room rate is TBD per night/Hotel cut-off date is TBD. To reserve your room, please call 409-842-3600 and mention the SETA Convention. Limited rooms are available... so please reserve your rooms early.

**Note:** Most Associations like to hold conferences/conventions. In AA, a conference/convention is an important opportunity to share the AA experience in a broad way. There are many AA conferences/conventions held around the world. One common misconception of these gatherings is that they are AA meetings, and since there are no dues or fees for AA membership, there should be no fee to attend these events. Conferences/Conventions are special events, not regular AA meetings. The conferences/conventions require months of planning, preparation, and money to present. Since most events are in hotels/convention centers, the hotel/convention centers will require that the group purchase coffee and food. Other expenses include travel and lodging for conference/convention, speakers, printing, postage and other supplies. A large event requires a substantial amount of money. Attendance at a conference/convention is voluntary, attending as part of a group is optional, but as a responsible AA member we must pay our own way.

Mail to SETA Convention C/O Julian Lightfoot 6440 Washington Blvd Beaumont, TX 77707	Convention Registration Code		Hotel Booking Code	
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Name(s) _____	AA: _____ Al-Anon _____ Alateen _____
Home Group _____	Badge Name _____
Name(s) _____	AA: _____ Al-Anon _____ Alateen _____
Home Group _____	Badge Name _____
Email Address _____	
Mailing Address _____	
City, State, Zip _____	
Phone _____	

*Early Registration (\$15.00) Qty _____	On-Site Registration (\$15.00) Qty _____
Coffee Badge (\$5.00 Each) Qty _____	Scholarship _____
Please accept my donation of _____	
Total amount enclosed _____	

\*Note: Onsite registration \$15.00

Please indicate Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_



Happy Birthday To You!!!

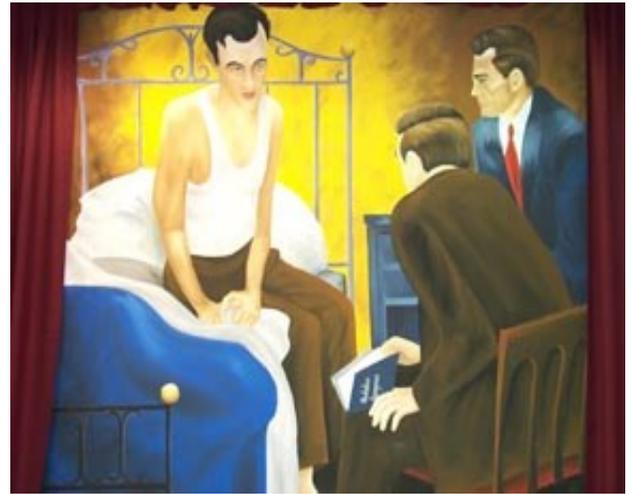
Intergroup would like to congratulate everyone who is celebrating a sobriety birthday in December!!!



### Twelfth Step Prayer

*Dear God, Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that "faith without works is dead." And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this message to other alcoholics! Provide me with the guidance and wisdom to talk with another alcoholic because I can help when no one else can. Help me secure his confidence and remember he is ill.*

Derived from text found on page 86 of Alcoholics Anonymous - the Big Book



## 12th Step Principle Service

### 12th Promise

We suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.



**We are not a  
glum lot.**