

Step 1

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us.

No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now becomes the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our

bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.

But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

We know that little good can come to any alcoholic who joins A.A. unless he has first accepted his devas-

tating weakness and all its consequences. Until he so humbles himself; his sobriety—if any—will be precarious. Of real happiness he will find none at all. Proved beyond doubt by an immense experience, this is one of the facts of A.A. life.

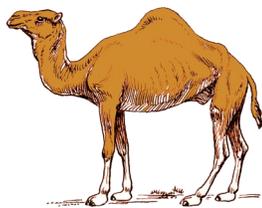
This principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flowered.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 21–22

Tradition 1 Long Form

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare should come first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.”

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, “What a great thing A.A. might have been!” Does this mean some will anxiously ask, “that in A.A. the individual doesn’t count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it?”



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 I

“The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services — those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our Society to function as a whole. The groups assumed that responsibility at the St. Louis International Convention of 1955. There, on behalf, of Dr. Bob, the Trustees and A.A.’s old-time leaders, I made the transfer of world service responsibility to our entire Fellowship.

Why, and by what authority was this done? There were reasons of stark necessity for it, and there were further reasons which have to do with A.A.’s fundamental structure and tradition.

By the year 1948 our necessities had become clear enough. Ten years earlier—in 1938—helped by dedicated friends, Dr. Bob and I had commenced work upon a world service structure. Our first step was the creation of a trusteeship for A.A. as a whole. We called this body the Alcoholic Foundation; and in 1954 it was re-named The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This trusteeship was designed to inaugurate and maintain all of those special services for A.A. as a whole that could not well be performed by single groups or areas. We envisioned the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling the large numbers of pleas for help that might follow in the wake of national and international publicity. We thought in terms of aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups. We thought there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translations of our literature into other languages.

By 1950 nearly all of these dreams for world service had come true. In the dozen years following the creation of The Foundation, A.A. membership had jumped from 50 to 100,000. The A.A. Traditions had been written and adopted. A confident unity had pretty much replaced fear and doubt and strife. Our services had unquestionably played a large and critical role in this unfoldment. World service, therefore, had taken on crucial meaning for A.A.’s future. If these vital agencies were to collapse or bog down, our unity within and the carrying of our message to innumerable alcoholics without, would suffer serious and perhaps irreparable damage. Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood that they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship. Among the A.A. groups it had been proven that we could survive great strain and stress. But could we stand heart failure at our world center?

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 4 of the Concepts Section

AA GRAPEVINE



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

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



JANUARY 2023 | SPIRITUAL
AWAKENINGS | OLDTIMERS

The Hope I Found

BY: LORI A. | CANAL WINCHES-
TER, OHIO

A gentleman gave me a Big Book at no cost. Wow, free stuff! I had no idea what I held in my hand. He suggested I start reading it. "Most importantly," he said, "don't drink."

Alcohol tortured and enslaved me for years. But on June 6, 1988, I was done. I woke and asked God in his great mercy to just take me. Alcohol had quit working for me. Not drinking seemed foreign and unnatural. How was I going to not drink? Was this even possible?

My sister called our local Central Office, and they sent two people to visit me. After they introduced themselves, I babbled on for a while about how I was afraid to drink and afraid to not drink. "We know people like you who know how not to drink," one of them said.

"Would you like to meet them?"

I was shocked. There were people who knew how not to drink? I felt both doubt and hope swirling inside me. I agreed to go meet these people and, just like that, they took me to my first AA meeting.

My first 30 days were quite a blur. One thing I remember was a sign that said, "Hope is Found Here." People came up to me to welcome me "home." They kept telling me to keep coming back.

In the first week, I attended a meeting that would become my home group. There, a gentleman gave me a Big Book at no cost to me. Wow, free stuff! I had no idea what I held in my hand. He suggested I start reading it and look for a sponsor. "Most importantly," he said, "don't drink".

That night I went home and began to read this Big Book. "The Doctor's Opinion" chapter stated that alcoholism was a disease. I come from a long line of alcoholics who drank themselves to death. These people were viewed as immoral and weak. Here was a doctor who stated it was a disease. Could I be treated? I continued to read.

Even though "Bill's Story" was set decades before my time, I related to that "bitter morass of self-pity" and that alcohol was

my "master." I read about the night he was in such a state he thought that he would jump from his window "sash and all." I've been there. He was speaking to my soul.

Then I got to chapter two and saw "There Is a Solution." I was so floored. I didn't have to drink myself to death? For the first time, I truly felt that there was hope for me. I continued to read. The sun was already up when I finished "A Vision for You." Yes, I read the first 164 pages in that one night. I could not wait to get to my next meeting. I had so many questions.

It has been many years, three sponsors and a lot of meetings since 1988. I have worked in service positions, and I have worked with many newcomers. I have not had to drink.

Months into my first year, I found out that the gentleman who had given me my first Big Book carried extra Big Books wherever he went to make sure anyone reaching out to AA got the solution. That Big Book was not free. The opportunity for him to give me a Big Book came at a cost to him that was much more than money.

Today, I continue to keep a few Big Books on me just in case I meet someone who needs one. I pray they feel that fire of hope that I felt when I read it for the first time.

Group Contributions — December, 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	\$120.00	\$160.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$120.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$1,518.00
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	\$40.00	\$240.00
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	West End	\$0.00	\$173.15
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$643.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$200.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$210.00	\$6,420.24

**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

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 District 90 GSR Meeting.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

February 5, 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.

Fri, Jan 13 | MCM Elegante 60th Annual SETA Convention



Time & Location

Jan 13, 3:00 PM – Jan 15, 12:00 PM
MCM Elegante, 2355 I-10, Beaumont, TX 77705, USA

About the event

Friday - January 13th

7:00 PM - Opening Announcements
7:30 PM - Debbie D. - AA - California
10:00 PM - Francisco Socorro Ortiz Gaytan - Spanish Speaker - AA

Saturday - January 14th

8:00 AM - Area 67 Assembly
9:30 AM - Billy Noonam - AA GSO - Florida
1:30 PM - Don B. - CFC - Woodsville TX
4:00 PM - Ricky R. - AA - Jacksonville TX
8:00 PM - Meyers R. - AA - Kerrville TX
9:30 PM - Entertainment & Dance

Sunday - January 15th

7:30 AM - Area 67 Assembly
8:00 AM - GSR Workshop
11:00 AM - Sharon S. - AA - Oklahoma

2023

DISTRICT 90 GSR MEETINGS

January 8, February 5, March 5 ,
March 25(April), May 7, June 4 ,
June 25(July), August 6, September 10,
October 8, November 5, December 3

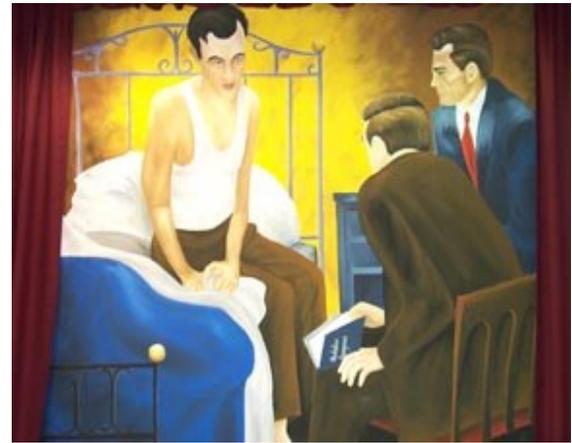
NINTH DISTRICT INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION INC. MEETINGS

January 22
April 16
July 16
October 22

**** GSR and Intergroup Meetings start at 2:00pm ****
Location 1235 Crockett Street Beaumont ,Texas

AREA 67 ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

January 13-15
April 1-2
July 8-9
October 14-15



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



**1st Step
Principle
Honesty**

**1st Promise
We are going to know a
new freedom and a new
happiness**



**We are not a
glum lot.**