

Step 2

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

The moment they read Step Two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, “Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that our lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us *won't* believe in God, others can't, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you've got us over the bar-

rel, all right — but where do we go from here?”

Let's look first at the case of the one who says he won't believe — the belligerent one. He is in a state of mind which can be described only as savage. His whole philosophy of life, in which he so gloried, is threatened. It's bad enough, he thinks, to admit alcohol has him down for keeps. But now, still smarting from that admission, he is faced with something really impossible. How he does cherish the thought that man, risen so majestically from a single cell in the primordial ooze, is the spearhead of evolution and therefore

the only god that his universe knows! Must he renounce all this to save himself?

At this juncture, his A.A. sponsor usually laughs. This, the newcomer thinks, is just about the last straw. This is the beginning of the end. And so it is: the beginning of the end of his old life, and the beginning of his emergence into a new one. His sponsor probably says, “Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think. At least I've found it so.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
Pages 25,26

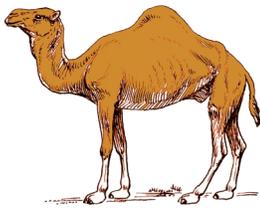
Tradition 2

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servant's they do not govern”

Where does A.A. get its direction? Who runs it? This, too is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into outer darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, “This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere.” These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A. A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, “Yes! it definitely does.” The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of A.A. history, and soon have the solid facts.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

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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 II

When, in **1955**, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article **12** of the Conference Charter __ the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section

It is self-evident that the thousands of A.A. groups and the many thousands of A.A. members, scattered as they are all over the globe, cannot *of themselves* actually manage and conduct our manifold world services. The group conscience is out there among them, and so are the needed funds. The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme. They have all of the final responsibility and authority that there is. The operation is really theirs; they really own it. This has been true ever since the groups took over from the founders and old-timers at St. Louis in **1955**.

But an ultimate authority and responsibility in the A.A. groups for world services — if that is all there were to it — could not amount to anything. Nothing could be accomplished on that basis alone. In order to get effective action, the groups must delegate the actual operational authority to chosen service representatives who are fully empowered to speak and to act for them. The group conscience of A.A. could not be heard unless a properly chosen Conference were fully trusted to speak for it respecting most matters of world service. Hence the principle of amply delegated authority and responsibility to “trusted servants” must be implicit from the top to the bottom of our active structure of service. This is the clear implication of A.A.’s Tradition Two.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section

AA GRAPEVINE



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

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FEBRUARY 2023 | MAKING AMENDS | SPECIAL SECTION

The best son I can be

BY: MORGAN J. | ANNAPOLIS, MD.

With his sponsor's help, a member learns to make living amends for the next 21 years of his mother's life

What do you do when there's a person in your life to whom you are trying to make amends and they don't want to hear anything about it? This happened to me when I tried to make amends to my mother. To be fair to her, I didn't take into account what had happened in her relationships with several members of the family who had suffered with alcoholism.

Not only did I have the disease, but so had my father and his sister, a sister-in-law, her mother and an aunt as well. With the exception of myself, all died tragic deaths from this disease. My family is like a who's who of alcoholic deaths.

Prior to attempting the Ninth Step, I had discussed what I was to do and how to do it with my sponsor. We even went to the trouble of writing out a script for what I would say. I even had the script tucked in my pocket for the first sober visit to my mother's home early in my sobriety. Fortunately, the situation didn't allow us any one-on-one time, so the attempt was postponed to another day. Looking back, I wasn't ready to do the Ninth Step with my mother; I had some more work to do. My sponsor and I revised the script to be sure that I knew what my purpose was.

The time finally came when my mother and I would get together, and it seemed like a good time to set the record straight between us. My sponsor agreed and wished me luck. He asked me to call to let him know how it turned out. I think he knew something I didn't.

When I got to my mother's home we had some lunch. Afterward we took the dog for a walk, and I began with the early portion of my script. As soon as I got started my mother interrupted and said that she didn't want to talk about it; "it" being the disease of alcoholism. She thought it was a psychological problem that could be treated with therapy and even offered to help me find a suitable therapist. To top it off she also didn't believe in any kind of Higher Power. Her response put the brakes on my prepared speech and ended that day's attempt.

Fortunately, I called my sponsor on my return home and told him what had happened. He asked me several questions, mostly as to how the day went, and the answer was it had been a pretty good day except for the one thing. He reminded me that a Ninth Step isn't about just one event; many times, it's an ongoing event. He reminded me of the definitions of amends: one is to restore and the second is to change. Not only was I to restore those things that had been taken, in this case her peace of mind, but I was also to change my behavior.

He asked me what my relationship was with my mother, and I answered that I was her son. He then said I was to be the best son I can be. That turned out to be the road map for the next 21 years of my mother's life.

Over time, my mother and I started to do more things together. She would often invite me to her home for lunch and general talk; she always wanted to know what was going on in my life. It became apparent to me that sometimes these visits would include a request to fix something around the house, and it was obvious that I had better bring some tools with me on these visits. So I started putting some tools and other

assorted gadgets in a red draw-string bag that I kept behind the seat in my car. On a few occasions during a visit, she would ask if I could fix something that was broken, and naturally I would have to check to see what the problem was. She would announce during my inspection that she had some tools that might help, but invariably I would say that I might have something in the car that would work, and I would go out to the car and bring in the little red bag.

After a while we started going to plays together, and early in the season we would talk on the phone to decide which plays we were going to attend. We got subscriptions to smaller local theaters and would usually see three or four plays together. During one early August in 1988 we were making plans when she all of a sudden asked if "it" hadn't been about 10 years. She didn't have to say what "it" was, but as it turned out she was within two weeks of my 10th anniversary. And we think that people aren't paying attention.

On one of our last visits, she and I had a chance to talk about a lot of different things, some of which were her fears. She was afraid that she'd die alone and no one would know. I tried to assure her that we would be there for her no matter what. Over the years not only had I tried to be the best son that I could be, but we actually became best friends.

A few weeks after that visit my mother had a massive stroke while eating dinner with one of her friends. She was taken to the hospital and we were told that she would never be the same if she recovered and her recovery was unlikely. My brother, sister and I moved into her hospital room to be with her, each of us taking a little time away to clean up, change and take care of a few errands and then back to our recliners in her hospital room. It was a long week, but we were there to tell her that it was OK for her to go home. I was with her to feel her last heartbeat. Like my sponsor had suggested, I tried to be the best son I could be. And we got to be really good friends.

Group Contributions — January 2023

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	\$0.00
Any Lengths	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$100.00	\$100.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$0.00
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	\$20.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
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	\$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	\$400.00	\$400.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$206.00	\$206.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$826.00	\$826.00

**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 need break. Each facility requires a background check before you enter. For more information please come to next GSR meeting.

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
March 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
April 16, 2023 At 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

42nd ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION
August 18, 19 & 20, 2023
MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
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

Name1 : _____ Email Address: _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___ AA ___ Al-Anon ___ Alateen ¹ <i>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter___Spanish Translator___Special Accom/Need</i>	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___ AA ___ Al-Anon ___ Alateen ¹ <i>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter___Spanish Translator___Special Accom/Need</i>
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Pre-Registration: { } AA @ \$ 10.00 each \$ _____ { } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each \$ _____ { } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each \$ _____ { } Sponsorship Donation \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____	Amt. Enclosed: \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____
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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:

District 90 Convention Treasurer
PO Box 1591
Groves, TX 77619

Alcoholics
Anonymous®
www.aa.org

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

**Please direct all
communications to:**
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

January 11, 2023

Dear A.A. Friends,

On behalf of the employees at the General Service Office (G.S.O.), I wish you a very Happy New Year! While we A.A.s strive to live one day at a time, for many still, the new year brings a spirit of renewal and an added spark of hope. I share this spirit, particularly for the future of A.A.

I am pleased to share some exciting updates and changes at G.S.O.

G.S.O. provides a tremendous range of critical services, which requires that the office be structured in the best way possible to facilitate the delivery of these services efficiently and effectively. At the same time, we must stay true to the spiritual principles that guide our work. With this in mind, we have taken a close look at several services and functions and made some changes.

Many of these changes are in the Publishing Department, which produces, distributes, and updates our life-saving literature. As the world has changed, many of these services have grown in complexity—specifically, the licensing of our literature to A.A. structures around the world, new translations of our books and pamphlets, translation of documents and background for our General Service Conference, and monitoring and protecting Intellectual Property Rights related to our literature and the A.A. name. These services are vital, not only in assisting groups and members in carrying the message, but also to preserve our single purpose and our Traditions.

The primary reason for these changes is to allow for more focus on and oversight of these services, and to allow the Publishing Department to focus directly on our literature. To best facilitate carrying out these and the other services in the most effective manner, we have established two separate departments.

- **Legal, Licensing and Intellectual Property.** In addition to assuming the services of international literature licensing and Intellectual Property (IP), this new department has assumed the responsibility for coordinating all legal matters administered at G.S.O. This department is staffed by leadership with strong legal background and others with deep experience in licensing and IP.
- **Language Services.** As I mentioned in my most recent [communication](#), this department has centralized the function of translation of our literature and thousands of documents into several languages each year. It also coordinates essential interpretation services that allow for direct interaction and communication with other A.A. structures around the world. These services ensure full participation and help to unify our worldwide Fellowship.

These changes are the result of a great deal of collaboration, participation, and effort by members of management and their teams. All involved have been very open and willing to make this happen and are enthusiastic about increasing the effectiveness of the office and our services. These efforts are another example how we infuse our principles into the G.S.O. operations.

We are here to serve the Fellowship and are grateful for your support through your contributions to the General Service Board and the trust you place in us and each other.

With gratitude for all you do for A.A.,



Bob W.
General Manager, G.S.O.



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



2023

DISTRICT 90 GSR MEETINGS

January 8, February 5, March 5,
March 26(April), May 7, June 4,
June 25(July), August 6, September 10,
October 8, November 5, December 3

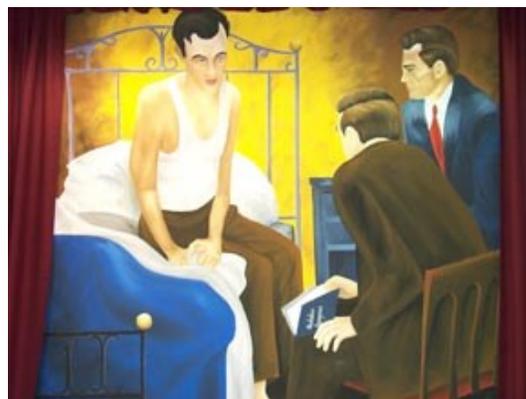
NINTH DISTRICT INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION INC. MEETINGS

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



2nd Step Principle

Hope

2nd Promise

We will not regret the past nor wish to close the door on it.



We are not a glum lot.