

## Step 4

**“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”**

Creation gave us instincts for a purpose. Without them we wouldn't be complete human beings. If men and women didn't exert themselves to be secure in their persons, made no effort to harvest food or construct shelter, there would be no survival. If they didn't reproduce, the earth wouldn't be populated. If there were no social instinct, if men cared nothing for the society of one another, there would be no so-

ciety, So these desires — for the sex relation, for material and emotional security ,and for companionship — are perfectly necessary and right, and surely God-given.

Yet these instincts, so necessary for our existence, often far exceed their proper functions. Powerfully, blindly, many times subtly, they drive us, dominate us, and insist upon ruling our lives. Our desires for sex, for material and emotional

security, and for an important place in society often tyrannize us. When thus out of joint, man's natural desires cause him great trouble, practically all the trouble there is. No human being, however good, is exempt from these troubles. Nearly every serious emotional problem can be seen as a case of misdirected instinct.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 42*

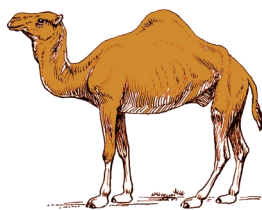
## Tradition 4

**“With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount..”**

**AUTONOMY** is a ten-dollar word. But in relation to us, it means very simply that every A.A. group can manage its affairs exactly as it pleases, except when A.A. as a whole is threatened. Comes now the same question raised in Tradition One. Isn't such liberty foolishly dangerous?

Over the years, every conceivable deviation from our Twelve Steps and Traditions has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser. These very deviations created a vast process of trial and error which, under the grace of God, has brought us to where we stand today.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 146*



**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 IV

**Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge..”**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 15 of the Concepts Section*

**The principle of “Participation” has been carefully built into our Conference structure. The Conference Charter specifically provides that the Trustees, the Directors of our service corporations, (A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc.) together with their respective executive staffs, shall always be voting members of the General Service Conference itself.**

**Exactly the same concept is borne in mind when our General Service Board elects the Directors of its wholly-owned active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. and The A.A. Grapevine, Inc. If it wished, the General Service Board could elect none but its own Trustees to these corporate directorships. But a powerful tradition has grown up to the effect that this never ought to be done.**

**For example, A.A. World Services, Inc. ( which also includes the A.A. Publishing division) currently has seven directors, only two of whom are Trustees. The other five non-Trustee. Directors comprise three volunteers, both expert in office management and publishing, and two directors who are paid staff members: the general manager and his assistant. The general manager is traditionally the president of A.A. World Services, Inc. and his assistant is a vice president. For communication linkage, the editor or a staff member of the Grapevine or his nominee is invited to attend A.A. World Services, Inc. meetings.**

**Therefore the active management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and its publishing division is composed of Trustees whose mission is to see that these projects are properly managed; of volunteer experts who contribute their advice and professional experience; and of two paid office executives who are charged with getting most of the work done. It will be seen that each member of every classification, is a director, and so has a legal vote; that each corporate officer bears a title which, both practically and legally, denotes what his (or her) actual status and responsibility is.**

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 15 of the Concepts Section*



# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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



APRIL 2023 | AA & FAMILIES |  
OUR PERSONAL STORIES

## Back in the game

BY: BOB D. | INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

*A close brush with death showed him how much he is loved and how grateful he is to be sober*

I was visiting with an old acquaintance after a meeting the other day. He told me about the 20 radiation treatments he'd experienced so far, and with 19 more to go, he reported that he still felt good and had no side effects.

I reflected back to six years earlier when my wife and I sat in the office of a well-known gastroenterologist late one afternoon. We'd been told it was a miracle that we were able to get the appointment.

"You are in the bottom of the ninth inning, you have two outs, and you need a home run," the doctor told me. What his "home run" referred to was the effort to get my cancer under control and to get a spot on the list for organ donation as a treatment for hepatitis C. At that appointment, the doctor diagnosed me with stage 4 liver cancer and end-stage liver disease.

I had been going to AA for almost 34 years at that point and I did not have a perfect track record. I had three relapses and was about five years sober again when I got this devastating news. The doctor wasn't even sure I could be treated. My prospects for survival were not good.

That night, the doctor called unexpectedly. He said he looked at my most-recent MRI and it looked like I had one chance for treatment, which he would schedule me for as soon as possible. My wife and I were overjoyed at the news. I knew that only sober people would receive a transplant and I was so relieved that the compulsion to drink was lifted by my Higher Power long ago.

After I hung up with the doctor, I called my sponsor and the men in my Step workshop and let them know what I was facing. Over the next 15 months and 12 hospitalizations, my health deteriorated to the point where I was unable to work, but I was still able to attend a couple of AA meetings a week. One day at a time takes on special meaning when your life is in danger.

On the ride home after being discharged from the hospital late one bitterly cold winter night in February, I told my wife I was going to be sick and asked her to pull over. I got out and was sick there by the side of the road and when I came back to the car my wife noticed I was covered in blood. My liver had failed, and I began bleeding out. My wife, being the Al-Anon trooper she is, turned the car around and headed for the emergency room.

I was in a coma for more than two weeks. I later found out that many of my AA friends had come by to visit me and my wife. They brought her fresh clothes and food, as she refused to leave my side. One of my good AA buddies watched our house and paid our bills. Others took care of our cats at home. My wife did not leave the hospital for that entire time.

I was in very bad shape. Things looked dire. But something happened just in the nick of time. A liver became available. I believe that this stroke of luck was not luck at all, but due to prayers from our friends, including many AA members who we met visiting in Mexico and those in our town and others who kept me in the light.

I received a transplant that next

morning and I went home six days later. Part of my post-transplant recovery required me to attend a clinic two times a week for several weeks, which meant I had to be downtown very early. I was in a wheelchair, and I needed help with everything. My wife was my rock, along with others, but she became really burned out after all this. We had no idea how I was going to get out of the house to the clinic. But an AA friend offered to take me there for as long as I needed to go. I was ornery, angry, self-absorbed and in a great deal of pain, but everyone just kept encouraging me to follow instructions and get well.

Friends brought AA meetings to our house. They fed me, visited with me and got me through the worst. A remarkable thing about my situation is that I never really believed I would die, but if I did die, I was glad that I got to experience a good deal of my adult life sober, clean and reasonably happy. As I saw it, the results of my treatment were up to God, not me.

Almost a year later, I went back to work with a new attitude of gratitude. We bought a place in Mexico just 100 steps from the beach and now we spend our winters there. I felt like I had received a new lease on life, almost as dramatic as getting sober!

Today, I'm back to at least three AA meetings a week. I sponsor men and I'm in the same Step study group I helped start 28 years ago. I have maintained my business and I volunteer for the organization that's responsible for organ donation, procurement and distribution in my state.

Yes, I'm getting older. I have some aches and pains, but I thank God every day for having such great friends, a good work life and family. One thing I discovered during my illness was this ironic but poignant thought: It took almost dying to understand, deep in my heart, how many people love me, how much God loves me and how AA and my recovery fellows brought me a life beyond my dreams.

## Group Contributions — March 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	\$0.00	\$100.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$372.00
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>\$60.00</b>
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	\$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	\$400.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>St Francis</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$256.00
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	\$0.00	\$206.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$50.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$320.00</b>	<b>\$1,844.00</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@aaabeaumont.org](mailto:steppingstones@aaabeaumont.org) — Web: [aaabeaumont.org](http://aaabeaumont.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 GSR meeting

# Announcements

## Next District 90 GSR Meeting

May 7, 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

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

# 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

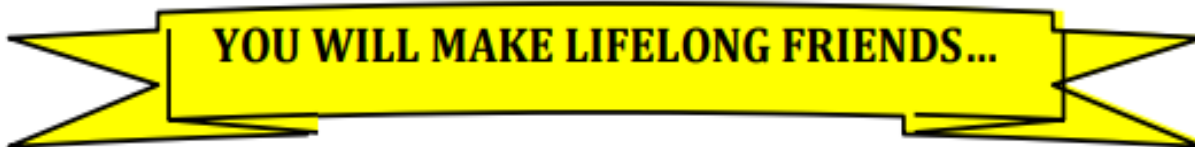
## NINTH DISTRICT INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION INC. MEETINGS

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



## 42nd ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 18, 19 & 20, 2023

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u></b></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Pat M., Houston, Tx              Fri. 10:00 PM AA Patrica V., Port Arthur, Tx              Sat. 8:30 AM AFG Four Faces of Al-Anon              Sat. 10:00 AM AA Damon W. Houston, Tx              Sat. 12:30 PM AFG Alateen              Sat. 01:00 PM AFG Alanon              Sat. 03:00 PM AA A. A. Skit              Sat. 04:30 PM AA Old Timers              Sat. 08:00 PM AA Danny D. Carson, Ca.              Sat. 10:00 PM Dance              Sun. 10:00 AM AA Harriet M., Austin, Tx</p> <p>Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social</p>	<p style="text-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 - 8-04-2023</p> <hr/> <p style="text-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 18, 2023 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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We STRIVE TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING—PLEASE DONATE TO THE COFFEE AND HOSPITALITY SUITE /CONTRIBUTION CANS

Note: The city of Beaumont has a smoke free ordinance. Outdoor smoking areas will be designated to accommodate our smoking guest



RECOVERY

Name 1 : _____ Email Address: _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen <sup>1</sup> Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen <sup>1</sup> Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Pre-Registration:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Amt. Enclosed:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Sponsorship Donation</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b></td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </table>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$ _____	<p><b>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</b></p> <p><b>District 90 Convention Treasurer</b>  <b>PO Box 1591</b>  <b>Groves, TX 77619</b></p>
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:												
{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$ _____												

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.



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



**HARAS AMIGOS PARA TODA LA VIDA ...**

**42nd CONVENCION ANNUAL DEL DISTRITO 90  
August 18, 19, & 20, 2023**

CONVENCIÓN ORADORES Y EVENTOS			Por favor hacer reservaciones directamente con:	
Fri. 08:00 PM	AA	Pat M., Houston, Tx	<b>MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL &amp; CONFERENCE CENTER</b> 2355 I-10 Access Rd SOUTH (GPS) 1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705 409-842-3600  Tasa de Convención- \$99 * por noche * si reservados por fecha limite - 129 de julio de 2023	
Fri. 10:00 PM	AA	Patrica V., Port Arthur, Tx		
Sat. 08:30 AM	AFG	Cuatro Caras de Al-Anon		
Sat. 10:00 AM	AA	Damon W., Houston, Tx		
Sat. 12:30 PM	AFG	Alateen		
Sat. 1:00 PM	AFG	Alanon		
Sat. 03:30 PM	AA	A.A. Skit		
Sat. 04:30 PM	AA	Viejos Temporizadores		
Sat. 08:00 PM	AA	Danny D. Carson, Ca.		
Sat. 10:00 PM		Baile		
Sun. 10:00 AM	AA	Harriet M., Austin, Tx	<b>ONSITE REGISTRACIÓN</b> Preinscripción termina el 31 de Julio de 2023! AA/Al-A on \$10, teen \$3 Abre registro en el sitio viernes, 18 de Agosto de 2023 a 14:00 AA / Al-Anon \$12 ea      Alateen... \$5 ea Sólo bailar \$5 ea      Café...Incluido con el registron  La entrada al baile incluye en la registración. † Solo para el baile se venderan los boletos en la puerta del salon sabado.	

Hospitality Suites... Cuenta regresiva sobriedad... Concurso de novatos... Rifa... Reuniones de maratón... Ice Cream Social  
 NOS ESFORZAMOS POR SER AUTOSUFICIENTE - POR FAVOR DONEN ALAS LATAS DE CONTRIBUCIÓN CAFÉ Y HOSPITALITY SUITE!

Nota: La ciudad de Beaumont tiene una ordenanza libre de humo. Habitaciones del hotel fumar están disponibles, pero le animamos a registrarse temprano debido a la disponibilidad limitada. Espacios para fumadores al aire libre serán designadas para acomodar a nuestros huéspedes de fumar durante la Convención.



**4th Step Principle  
Courage**

**4th Promise**

No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.



**We are not a  
glum lot.**