

STEP 6

“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults — *without reservations whatever* — has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can — and will, under certain conditions — remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this: “Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own will-power just wouldn’t work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends, doctors, and clergymen got

no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished. It was lifted right out of me.”

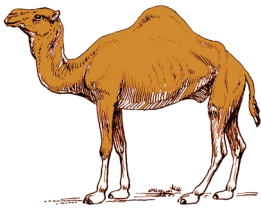
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 63

TRADITION 6 LONG FORM

“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. — and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one. ”

The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 155



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 VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section

Just as the A.A. Groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act freely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself.

This critical need for Trustee liberty of action raises several important questions. Next to the Conference, A.A.'s Board of Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants that we have, and therefore we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at top effectiveness over the years to come. We shall need to review and perhaps amend somewhat our present methods of choosing Trustees. We shall need to define clearly the several kinds of professional and financial skills that will always be required for a balanced trusteeship. Only by so doing can we permanently insure the Board's capability of future leadership.

In order to avoid continuous confusion, it will also be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference and just how they in turn should relate themselves to their active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. (including its division of A.A. Publishing) and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., our monthly magazine .

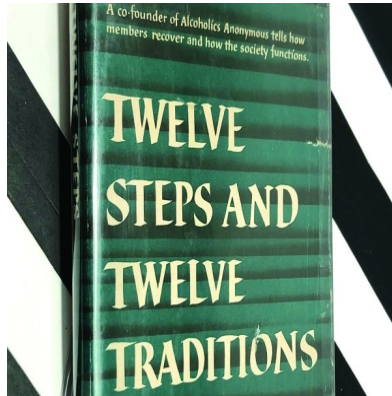
Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE



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



JUNE 2023 | TWELVE STEPS
AND TWELVE TRADITIONS |
SPECIAL SECTION

70 Wonderful Years!

We celebrate our beloved book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions"!

By the early 1950s, AA members and many of our non-alcoholic friends were urging our cofounder Bill W. to prepare a book on the principles of AA and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. Soon after, Bill reported to the 1952 Conference that he was working on a book project that included a "new series of anecdotal analyses of the Twelve Traditions" and "a series of orderly, point-by-point essays on the Twelve Steps." These essays were published in Grapevine in 1952 and 53 and would become our well-known AA book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*.

After nearly 18 months of writing and editing, the book was finally released in 1953. In *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, Bill noted that he sought assistance from his editorial team, Betty L. and Tom P. The draft was circulat-

ed among many old-time AA members and friends of medicine and religion. He also noted that Jack Alexander helped immensely with the final editorial touch. There is no doubt that the essays are a compilation of group experiences from the early days, as the office received hundreds of letters from groups and members on a range of controversial issues and other problems.

Advance interest in the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* was great. It's not certain how many copies were printed in April of 1953, but by the following year, approximately 29,567 copies were sold. The new book quickly became very popular among AA groups.

In a March 1953 letter, Bill wrote about the book:

I am beginning to think the stuff a bit tough for the AA newcomer. Yet it may prove a well-articulated backbone for AA.... The two manuscripts [both Steps and Traditions], though quite different in style, will be published together in the same volume. If we publish them separately, we think that the Traditions will not be too well read...the future unity of AA depends so much upon having them understood by everyone."

Later, in a June 1953 letter, Bill wrote:

"It was a tough job to write that book. It posed the problem of how to keep up its general effectiveness without treading on too many toes. One eye had to

be kept on religion, another on psychiatry, and all eyes had to survey the great variety of struggling alcoholics who might read the volume....How the work might have some semblance of dignity without being stuffy, how it might pack a punch without being sensational—well, that was the constant thought".

"The Tradition discussion in the book was frankly written for beginners...also, I think, on rereading, that in spots the book pontificates too much... Many of us felt, that there ought to be a fairly authoritative exposition of each Step and each Tradition... But the method of exposition is not the method by which AA usually teaches. Nearly everything in the way of communication between AAs is made story fashion".

Many of these letters are now kept at GSO Archives. Some of Bill's experiences in the book remain a mystery however, and were probably only known to Bill.

Group Contributions May 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	\$158.92	\$158.92
Any Lengths	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County	\$60.00	\$60.00
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	Orange	\$20.00	\$80.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$200.00	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	\$820.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$300.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$256.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$100.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$88.09
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$206.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$100.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$288.92	\$2,941.01

**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.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

(July meeting)



June 25, 2023 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

July 16, 2023 At 2:00 PM

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 07 ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

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



76th Annual Texas State AA Convention

San Antonio, Texas

June 9 – 11, 2023

“The age of miracles is still with us. Our own recovery proves that!”

Scheduled AA Speakers

Willard M. Austin, TX
Gary K. Sulphur Springs, TX
Tisa B. Sheep Springs, NM
Jackie K. Granbury, TX
Chris R. Ingram, TX
Old Timers Panel
Texas Panel 71 and 72, Delegates
G.S.O.: Jimmy D. Dallas, TX
Al-Anon: Stephanie B. Granite Shoals, TX

Hotel Information

The Westin San Antonio North
9821 Colonnade Boulevard
San Antonio, Texas 78230
210-691-8888
Room Rates \$125 - \$145
Booking Code: (Texas State AA Convention)

Registration Fee: \$30.00 at the door; early online registration \$25.00



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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

Mid County Group - June Birthdays

Randy H. 14 yrs

Zachary E. 4 yrs

Hayden V. 2 yrs

St. Francis Group - June Birthday

Belinda J. 26 yrs



6th Step Principle

Willingness

6th Promise

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.



We are not a glum lot.