

Step 7

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

Since this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it means to us.

Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.’s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.’s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven’t much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it, they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in

adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.

Humility, as a word and as an ideal, has a very bad time of it in our world. Not only is the idea misunderstood; the word itself is often intensely disliked. Many people haven’t even a nodding acquaintance with humility as a way of life. Much of the everyday talk we hear, and a great deal of what we read, highlights man’s pride in his own achievements.

With great intelligence, men of science have been forcing nature to disclose her secrets. The immense resources now being harnessed promise

such a quantity of material blessings that many have come to believe that a man-made millennium lies just ahead. Poverty will disappear, and there will be such abundance that everybody can have all the security and personal satisfactions he desires. The theory seems to be that once everybody’s primary instincts are satisfied, there won’t be much left to quarrel about.

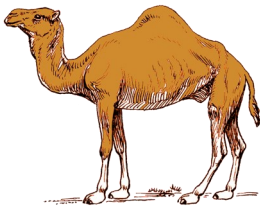
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 70

Tradition 7 Long Form

“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligations whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A. A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”

Self-supporting alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that’s what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that A.A. has wrought in all of us. Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can’t cure. Always, we’ve had our hands out. Time out of mind we’ve been dependent upon somebody, usually money-wise. When a society composed entirely of alcoholics says it’s going to pay it’s bills, that’s really news.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 160



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.

Inside this issue:

Step 7—Tradition 7 1
 Concept VII 2
 Stories (Grapevine) 3
 Contributions 4
 District Events , West End Group 63rd Anniversary 5
 42nd District 90 Convention 6
 7th Promise, 7th Step Principle, GSR, Intergroup, SETA 2023 meeting dates, At Wit's End 7

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.

Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from our readers is encouraged. Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected. ■

Concept VII

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section

This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services, while on the other hand we find that A.A.'s General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them—practically speaking.

This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate—viz., the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves. Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking it has all of the ultimate rights and powers that it may ever need.

When we reflect that our Trustees have no salaried financial interest in their posts, we can be quite sure that such a Board would never think of legally contesting the clear and sustained will of the Conference Delegates and the A.A. areas they represent.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Grapevine Online Exclusive



JULY 2023 | ANNUAL PRISON ISSUE | SPECIAL SECTION

Gladly Out of My Way

BY: JULIE G. | PORTAGE, WISCONSIN

Helping members get to meetings not only gives her a spiritual high but also some beautiful friendships

I am reminded every week that had I done things my own way, I would have missed out on so many spiritual gifts of recovery. By the grace of my Higher Power, my journey has been completely different than I would have ever expected.

When I finally surrendered and conceded to my innermost self that I was an alcoholic, I started going to a lot of AA meetings. After I was a few months sober, a speaker shared his story and talked about taking meetings into prisons. My mind immediately closed. I thought, There's no way I will ever do that. I'm not qualified for that kind of service. While the police were called multiple times when I was drinking, I was never arrested. I was sure that to be qualified to do corrections work, you had to have been arrested and spent time in jail. Thank God I've come to understand that because I'm an alco-

holic who has worked the Steps, I am qualified.

As it happens, after a few years sober I was asked to share my story at a women's prison about a two-hour drive from my home. I will be forever grateful that I said yes. It was not convenient for me to get there, and I was so full of self and fear, but my Higher Power went with me and showed me that I'm just like the women I met there. I drank to escape; I drank to hide; I drank to fit in; I drank because I was happy, sad, mad, celebrating and lonely. I drank because I'm an alcoholic. Back then alcohol was my solution to life. Driving home that evening after speaking to those women, I experienced a spiritual high.

Shortly after that, I was asked if I would take AA meetings into a maximum-security prison on a regular basis. There was a great need for volunteers in our area. Again, it was not convenient and I was full of fear. But again, I said yes. I was blessed to get to take meetings there for several years. And every week I got to experience that spiritual high.

At nine years into sobriety, I moved to another state and struggled to get involved in AA. My self-will took over and I decided I had done enough service work. I'm so grateful that my Higher Power had other plans.

One day I was at an AA meeting where they passed around a "Bridging the Gap" sign-up sheet, and I signed up. Our area's corrections chairperson asked if

I'd be willing to take a woman who was being released from prison to some AA meetings. What a gift! For more than two years, I took this woman to meetings each week until she got her driver's license back. Again, this was not convenient at all, as it required me to make a 100-mile round trip to go pick her up, get to the meeting and then take her back home.

A beautiful friendship came from our travels together. Six years into our friendship, she was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and I was able to show up and be with her as she transitioned over to the other side—sober.

Service keeps me grounded in recovery. Today I get to take meetings into the local county jail and also attend a prison meeting about an hour from my home. I get to serve our area as the corrections chairperson. I get to experience that spiritual high each time I drive home from a prison or an area event. Today I know that my Higher Power goes with me and the fears I have are removed. I understand that if I'm looking for service work that's convenient, then that service is tied to self. When I say yes to what my Higher Power is asking me to do in service, I'll be blessed beyond my wildest dreams.

Group Contributions — June 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	\$158.92
Any Lengths	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County	\$0.00	\$60.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$100.00	Mustard Seed	\$260.00	\$632.00
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	\$100.00
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	\$362.00	\$568.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$100.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$642.00	\$3,583.01

**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@aa Beaumont.org — Web: aa Beaumont.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 to get more information or call the Intergroup office @ 409-832-1107.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

August 6, 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.



West End Group

63rd

Anniversary

"To thy own self be true"

July 29, 2023

1235 Crocket Street

Beaumont Texas

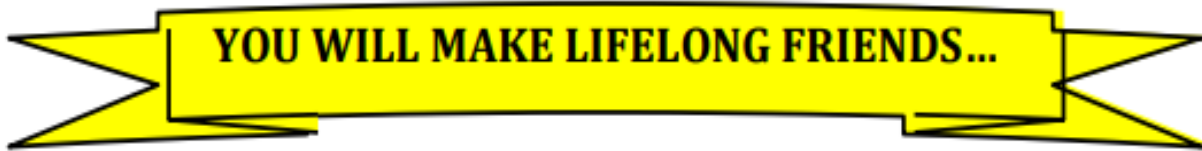
12pm-Until

	12:30-1pm	History
1pm-2pm	AL Anon Speaker Betty B	
	2pm-3pm	Raffle
3pm-4pm	AA Speaker Pauline B.	
	4pm-5pm	Dinner
5pm		Old Timers Panel
6pm		Sobriety Countdown
6:30pm		Birthday Celebration
	9:30pm	Dance

Raffles
Ticket
Sold

T-Shirts see Raynell





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

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u></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;">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 EARLY DEADLINE - 8-04-2023</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">ONSITE REGISTRATION</p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 31, (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)[†] 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>
--	--

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



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 ¹ 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 ¹ 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;">TOTAL ENCLOSED</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </table>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____	<p>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</p> <p>District 90 Convention Treasurer PO Box 1591 Groves, TX 77619</p>
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:												
{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____												

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.



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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

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



7th Step Principle Humility

7th Promise

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.



We are not a glum lot.

At Wit's End Plea for peas

An alcoholic woman was arrested for shoplifting. In court, the judge asked her, "What did you steal?"

"A can of peaches," she responded.

"How many peaches were in the can?" the judge asked.

"Six," she replied.

"Then I sentence you to six days in jail," the judge declared.

Just then the woman's husband rose from his seat. "Your Honor," he said, "she also stole a can of peas."