

Step 8

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”

“Steps Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our new-found knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.

This is a very large order. It is a task which we may perform with increasing skill, but never really finish. Learning how to live in the greatest peace, partnership, and brotherhood with all men and

women, of whatever description, is a moving and fascinating adventure. Every A.A. has found that he can make little headway in this new adventure of living until he first backtracks and really makes an accurate and unsparing survey of the human wreckage he has left in his wake. To a degree, he has already done this when taking moral inventory, but now the time has come when he ought to redouble his efforts to see how many people he has hurt, and in what ways. This reopening of emotional wounds, some old, some perhaps forgotten, and some still painfully festering, will at first look like a purposeless and pointless piece of surgery. But

if a willing start is made, then the great advantages of doing this will so quickly reveal themselves that the pain will be lessened as one obstacle after another melts away.

These obstacles, however, are very real. The first, and one of the most difficult, has to do with forgiveness. The moment we ponder a twisted or broken relationship with another person, our emotions go on the defensive.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 77-78

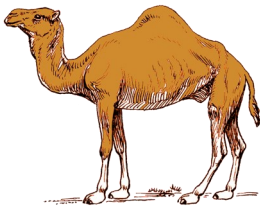
Tradition 8 Long Form

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.”

“ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words, “Freely ye have received, freely give.” we have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world’s best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: Our single purpose has been defeated.

Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an A.A. talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single newcomer, it can have a very bad effect on him, too. The money motive compromised him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few A.A.’s have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 166



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 VIII

“The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 31 of the Concepts Section

“Since our Trustees bear the primary responsibility for the good conduct of all our world service affairs, this discussion deals with the basic concepts and methods by which they can best discharge their heavy obligations. Long experience has not proved that our Board as a whole must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger and more serious questions of policy, finance, group relations, public relations and leadership that constantly confront it. In *these more critical matters*, the Board must of course function with great care and deliberation. Here the Board is expected skillfully to *plan, manage, and execute*.

It follows, therefore, that the close attention of the Board to such larger problems must not be subject to constant distraction and interference. Our Trustees, as a body, cannot be burdened with a mass of lesser matters; they must not concern themselves with the endless questions and difficulties which arise daily, weekly and monthly in the routine conduct of the World Service Office and of our publishing enterprises. In these areas the Board cannot possibly manage and conduct in detail; it must delegate its executive function.

Here the Board’s attitude has to be that of custodial oversight; it cannot be the executive. Hence the Trustees are the guarantors of the good management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. They discharge their custodial obligation by electing the directors of these services, a part of whom must always be Trustees.”

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 31 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



AUGUST 2023 | AA IN THE MILITARY | STEPS

Forgiving Dad

BY: MELISSA R. | CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA

In her drinking years, she blamed her father for abandoning her. Then she got the chance to make things right

One of the sweetest gifts of my sobriety has been my ability to repair my relationship with my father and have the chance to make a living amend before he passed away.

The program of AA helps me to understand that an amend is not simply an apology, it's changed behavior. I would not have been able to help my father during his last dying days had I not been sober and accountable.

During my years of heavy drinking, I was estranged from him. The distance between us didn't help either. He lived in St. Thomas, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, many miles away.

When I was 6 years old, my mother took me to Massachusetts to raise me. My father stayed in St. Thomas. He was

basically an absentee father. He was not what I thought a father should be and I blamed him for this. I would get letters from him, but once I started drinking I didn't see him for 18 years. I only called him once in a while, when I needed money to get out of a jam. I simply didn't care. He worried about whether I would ever clean up my act.

When Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the Caribbean, my father was devastated. The boat he was living on was destroyed. He became homeless and was staying in a makeshift shelter on the island. At age of 85, he swallowed his pride and asked me if he could come to live with me in Florida. I had been sober then for 10 years and I was married to a wonderful man with 26 years in AA. We did not hesitate to book him a flight.

Nobody knew it at the time, but my dad had been sick with skin cancer. When he got to Florida he was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic melanoma, which had already spread to his brain and other internal organs. Together, he and I went to doctor appointments and treatments. After treatment failed I helped him get into a nursing home where I visited frequently. My father passed away six months later under hospice care.

I was able to honor my father's final wish. My husband and I flew to St. Thomas, where we went out on a friend's boat to

scatter his ashes on the water. Afterward we had a memorial for him on the beach. It was a beautiful day for a gathering of all his friends, the many people who cared about and truly loved my father. I was not even aware that he had so many wonderful friends. We all shared stories and laughed and cried.

It brings me comfort to have done this for my father. It also helped me to move forward. Just because he was not there for me in the past doesn't mean that I could not be there for him when he needed me the most.

Forgiveness is one of many lessons I learned in AA. Recovery is a process, and my personal growth has been slow. I now realize the effect my drinking had on my family. To have made amends to my father, to have rebuilt our damaged relationship, helps me to know that I'm a good daughter. I was just one who had the disease of alcoholism.

Although the last year has been bittersweet, I'm glad for the chance to get to know my father better and to spend that valuable time with him. I had the opportunity to show my father love, to earn his trust back and to restore his faith in me before he died. Again, this was only possible because I'm sober in AA. What an awesome gift that is.

Group Contributions — July 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 | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | Murray Street | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Bolivar | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | Mustard Seed | \$0.00 | \$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 | \$120.00 |
| 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 | \$568.00 |
| Liberty | \$0.00 | \$100.00 | Way Out | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Lifeline | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Totals | \$120.00 | \$3,703.01 |

**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@aaabeaumont.org — Web: 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.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting September 10, 2023

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting October 22, 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 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;"><u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Pat M., Houston, Tx Fri. 10:00 PM AA <u>Patrica V.</u>, 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 <u>Alateen</u> TBD Sat. 01:00 PM AFG Nancy S. Midland Ga. 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 style="text-align: center;">MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2355 I-10 Access Rd SOUTH (GPS) 1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705 409-842-3600</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ROOM RATE - \$99 PER NIGHT / \$129 SUITE PER NIGHT EARLY <u>DEADLINE</u> 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. <u>Alateen</u>: \$ 5 ea. Dance only: \$ 5 ea. Coffee: incl. w/ registration</p> <p>Dance admission included with convention <u>registration</u> *<u>"Dance only"</u> tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night</p> |
|---|---|

Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social

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: ___ AA ___ Al-Anon ___ Alateen [!] <small>Check if Needed: ___ <u>ASL Interpreter</u> <u>Spanish Translator</u> <u>Special Accom/Need</u></small> | Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___ AA ___ Al-Anon ___ Alateen [!] <small>Check if Needed: ___ <u>ASL Interpreter</u> <u>Spanish Translator</u> <u>Special Accom/Need</u></small> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <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>{ } <u>Alateen</u> @ \$ 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 | \$ _____ | { } <u>Alateen</u> @ \$ 3.00 each | \$ _____ | { } Sponsorship Donation | \$ _____ | TOTAL ENCLOSED | \$ _____ | <p>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</p> <p>District 90 Convention Treasurer</p> <p>PO Box 1591</p> <p>Groves, TX 77619</p> |
| Pre-Registration: | Amt. Enclosed: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| { } AA @ \$ 10.00 each | \$ _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| { } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each | \$ _____ | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| { } <u>Alateen</u> @ \$ 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/a 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 August!!!



8th Step Principle
Reflection
Brotherly Love

8th Promise
Self-seeking will
slip away.

- SAVE THE DATE:
- MID COUNTY 46TH ANNIVERSARY
- SEPTEMBER 16TH 2023
- "ENCHANTED BY A STARLIGHT NIGHT"
- DONUT MEETING @ 9AM TILL ????
- SPEAKERS, FOOD, GAMES, RAFFLES
- IF YOUD LIKE TO DONATE RAFFLE ITEMS
CONTACT CASEY 409-499-1909
- IF YOUD LIKE TO ORDER AN ENCHANTED BY A
STARLIGHT NIGHT THEMED SHIRT CONTACT
HAYDEN 409-812-9368



We are not a
glum lot.