

Step 9

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.”

GOOD judgement, a careful sense of timing, courage and prudence — these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step 9.

After we have made the list of people we had harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance, and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see that the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reasonably confident that we can

maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct amends from the day we join Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment we tell our families that we are really going to try the program, the process has be-

gun. In this area there are seldom any questions of timing or caution. We want to come in the door shouting the good news. After coming from our first meeting, or perhaps after we have finished reading the book “Alcoholics Anonymous,” we usually want to sit down with some member of the family and readily admit the damage we have done by our drinking.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 83-84

Tradition 9 Long Form

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

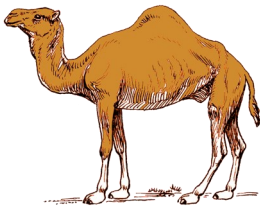
WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that “Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.” In years since then, we changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous — A.A. as a whole — should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, “What do they mean, no organization?”

Well, let’s see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn’t somehow discipline its members or enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn’t nearly every society on earth give authority to some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet, Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board*, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We’ve tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 172-173

** In 1954, the name of Alcoholic Foundation, Inc., was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*



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 9 - Tradition 9	1
Concept IX	2
Stories (Grapevine)	3
Contributions	4
GSR / Intergroup / SETA Meeting dates	5
BIG SHOUT OUT APPRECIATION to Dennis Mc	6
9th Promise, Principle, Mid - County Group September birthdays	7

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 IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 36 of the Concepts Section

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. But weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures. But once we have created a basically sound structure, that job is finished, except for occasional refinements.

With *leadership* we shall have a continuous problem. Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem that in its very nature cannot be permanently solved. We must continuously find the right people for our many service tasks. Since our future effectiveness must thus depend upon ever-new generations of leaders, it seems desirable that we now proceed to define what a good service leader should be; that we carefully indicate in each level of service, especially in our Board of Trustees, what special skills will always be required; and that we review our present methods of finding and choosing that leadership.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services-pg. 36 of the Concepts Section

AAGRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



SEPTEMBER 2023 | YOUNG & SOBER | STEP NINE

Return to sender

BY: JOSEPH S. | RENO, NEVADA

With a little help from his sponsor, the Big Book and the U.S. mail, he finally took the action to heal the past with his dad

After I'd been in the program for about three months, I started getting into the Steps, slowly. I kept hearing that the Fourth Step was really scary. But when I got to that Step, I thought all the people who said it was scary were nuts.

Writing about all the people that I was upset with, man, that was easy. However, looking at my part in these conflicts was not as easy. But I kept at it. I did the Fourth Step in the way my sponsor "suggested" and soon had a four-column inventory, just like the Big Book talked about. Being a rebel, I didn't write it down by hand. I typed it out. Then I hit print and had it in black and white in front of me.

The biggest resentment I had was toward my father, who had certainly done more harm to me than I had to him. Even after I did my Fifth Step, I still had a major resentment toward my father. I could be sitting in a meeting and someone would be talking about his or her dad and I would get mad. They

didn't even have to be talking about problems with fathers, it could be about the good times they were having with them now in sobriety and I'd be mad as a wet hen.

At one point I was told to try the "Page 552 trick," which refers to the story "Freedom From Bondage" in the Fourth Edition of the Big Book, which mentions praying for the person that you have the resentment against. You pray that they have all the good things you want in life. Do this for two weeks and by the time you're finished you will find you mean it.

Well, I did this for a full month every morning, and at the end I still sat in meetings getting angry when someone would talk about his or her father.

By three years in the program, I was on my third sponsor. The first two had both gone back out. "Isn't it time you did something about the resentment and the amends for your father?" my new sponsor said.

I reluctantly agreed to write to my father. So I typed up the letter and emailed it to my sponsor, asking for his opinion on what I had written. He responded by removing this and adding that. After sending the email back and forth a number of times, we came to an agreement. We hit a meeting after that and went to a local burger shop to talk it over. I read the letter again and we agreed it was ready to be sent.

Now, the Big Book talks about being willing, and I was still not really willing to send that letter. So when my sponsor said, "Send it," I handed him the letter, an envelope and a \$1 bill to buy a stamp. "I'm not going to send it," I said. He chuckled as he took the letter from

me and said, "Good enough."

That meeting with my sponsor was on a Saturday. When I returned home from work the following Thursday, I checked the mailbox and the letter was in it. On it was written: "Return to sender."

I looked at the envelope in shock. I pulled out my cell phone and called my sponsor. I asked him to guess what was in the mail. He guessed it was a letter from my dad. Nope. I told him it was the very same letter we had sent. It was back. We talked about what that meant.

Since the day I got home and found the letter in my mailbox, my resentment is gone. I did my part. It's not up to me how my dad accepts or rejects my attempt to make things right. It's up to me to make the effort. That isn't to say that he and I are on speaking terms today, but I can share this story or hear others talk about their fathers without getting upset now.

About two years after all this happened, my sister contacted me saying that if I wanted to talk to our dad I had better hurry because his health was failing. "The last time I sent him a letter it came back unopened," I told her, and she thought that over. "Don't try to contact him," she said. "He has not changed."

I spoke with my sponsor at the time and he asked how long had it been since I had thought about my dad. It was hard to answer that question, as the resentment was gone.

Group Contributions — August 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	\$100.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$100.00	Mustard Seed	\$335.00	\$967.00
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	\$140.00
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	\$175.00	\$431.00
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	\$50.00	\$150.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$580.00	\$4,283.01

**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 AM 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
October 8, 2023 at 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX
Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting
October 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

Hello to Everyone in the Fellowship!!!

I am writing this little letter to give a BIG SHOUT OUT APPRECIATION to Dennis Mc for his many years of volunteering at our Ninth District Intergroup Office.

Dennis has worked, off and on, at our Ninth District Intergroup office for over 30 years. He began his life of giving away what he had been given so freely as a volunteer back in the 90's at the little building on "Cedar and The Feeder." I am told he walked into the office one day and there were some challenges going on with regards to one of the volunteers. Dennis said, "We can't have that going on here. We need to get someone else. According to Dennis, he was told; "What am I supposed to do? I don't have anyone else." Dennis very promptly replied; "Yes you do!!! You have me!!!" And so, his "volunteerism" got kicked up to a whole new level right then and there.

Over the years, Dennis has served in many different positions within the Intergroup Office. There have been many stories told by many men in the fellowship about the help that Dennis has given away so freely to help another alcoholic have an opportunity at becoming a useful sober member of the AA Fellowship and society. From what I have heard, Dennis does not mix words when it comes to sobriety. He knows the seriousness of the disease and he knows the solution for the disease. Dennis has always said, "Yes" when asked to do anything as a volunteer at Intergroup.

One of the main things Dennis has done over the years is to serve as our Literature Purchaser. He is always looking for new literature that he thinks would be helpful to our Fellowship while maintaining the integrity of carrying our "AA Approved" literature. And, in most recent years, he has worked with us to offer some "AA Junk" for those of us who like that as well. One thing I can say about Dennis is that he is always willing to try things for the good of AA while making sure we always have our "time tested" foundational literature always available.

So; "Dennis, on behalf of our District 90 and our Ninth District Intergroup Office, let me say to you, for all the years you have served as a volunteer and our Literature Purchaser,

Thank You For The Giving Of Yourself!!!

For Fun and For Free!!!

Julian L.
DCM District 90
Treasurer, Ninth District Intergroup Association Inc.



Happy Birthday To You!!!

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

Mid-County Group September Birthday's

Last Tuesday of month 9-26-2023

Mike Mac 20 years

John H 3 years

Marcos 4 years

Kristie K 5 years



9th Step Principle

Justice

9th Promise

**Self-Seeking
Will Slip Away.**

MID-COUNTY 46TH ANNIVERSARY
ENCHANTED BY A STARLIGHT NIGHT PG 46
SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER

SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER
908 BOSTON AVE
9AM DONUT MEETING
10AM REGISTRATION
12PM JOSH J. AA SPEAKER
1PM LUNCH HOT DOGS
2PM LACY L. ALANON SPEAKER
3PM WASHER TOURNAMENT AND KICKBALL
6PM DINNER BRISKET DINNER
8PM CHRISTINA S AA SPEAKER
9:15PM RAFFLE

SHIRT ORDERS VISIT MID COUNTY FOR ORDER FORM ST15
 TO DONATE RAFFLE ITEMS CONTACT JENNIFER J 4093326692



**We are not a
glum lot.**