

## Step 12

**“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”**

The joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards.

Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety.

When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full

implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening. To new A.A.'s, this often seems like a very dubious and improbable state of affairs.

“What do you mean when you talk about a ‘spiritual awaken-

ing?’” they ask. Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 106*

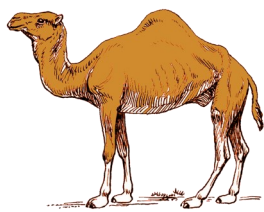
## Tradition 12

**“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”**

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.'s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 184*





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 12—Tradition 12	1
Concept 12	2
Grapevine Story	3
Contributions	4
District 90 GSR , Inter-group meetings, Inter-group Open House	5
2024 SETA Convention	6
12th Promise, Principle, Prayer, Mid-County Group Birthdays	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.

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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 XII

**“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Traditions, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 60*

***The Concept here considered consists of Article 12 of the Conference Charter. There are good reasons for placing it in this context.***

***Taken as a whole, our Conference Charter is the substance of an informal agreement, which was made between the A.A. groups and their trustees in 1955. It is the agreed basis upon which the General Service Conference operates. In part, the Charter is an elastic document; its first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself at any time.***

**But Article 12 of the Charter stands in a class by itself. An amendment or a cancellation of any of its vital Warranties would require the written consent of three quarters of all the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals, and the considerable time of six months is allowed for careful deliberation. (This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.) Although changes in the Warranties of Article 12 thus have been made difficult, they have not been made impossible.**

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.—pg. 60*

# AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

***To Receive Grapevine go the website and order***



DECEMBER 2023 | REMOTE COMMUNITIES AND SOBER HOLIDAYS | STEP TWELVE

## The perfect night

BY: CHARLES M. | HARBERT, MICHIGAN

*Just as the midnight mass bells were ringing, he and his partner were heading to jail*

When friends asked what I was doing for Christmas Eve 2019, I smiled and said, “Going to jail.” A friend and I were taking an AA meeting to incarcerated fellows at our local county jail. I had even added something self-serving like, “I can’t think of a better place to be on Christmas Eve.”

Well, I sure didn’t feel that way on that dark and cold December night in Michigan when I first arrived in the parking lot opposite the forbidding institution. I really wanted to be home with my wife and our new cat and the gas fireplace we had given ourselves for Christmas. Plus, I was feeling more than a little sorry for myself because the Christmas Eve jail AA service meant missing midnight mass, which at our church began at 8

p.m. to allow the aging faithful to get to bed at a decent hour.

Sure, I could go to mass the next day on Christmas morning, and that would certainly count with the church, but I would miss all the magic of midnight mass. And wouldn’t you know, the church on the other side of the jail’s parking lot rang its bells, summoning folks to come inside and worship on a cold, dark night. I looked over longingly at the warm, cozy church’s glowing stained-glass windows and watched worshippers eagerly climb the church steps in anticipation of some midnight marvels. Oh, how I wanted to join them.

But then I looked over at my partner in our Twelfth Step work and decided I couldn’t let him down. There had to be at least two of us outsiders for there to be an AA meeting at the jail. And, well, wasn’t there also that line from Step Twelve about carrying “this message to alcoholics.” I knew that I had a solemn duty to carry the message of my recovery to my incarcerated brothers on this side of the parking lot.

The church bells rang again, reminding me that I had a choice to make, and make it I did that cold, clear night in Michigan. My partner and I took the AA meeting into the county jail on Christmas

Eve—and what a meeting it turned out to be!

I don’t have to tell you, because you know, what happens when we AAs share our experience, strength and hope with one another. Serenity happens...peace prevails. The Promises are fulfilled among us, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them. And we band of brothers—in green jump suits, blue jeans and flannel shirts—worked for them.

Because it was Christmas Eve, we got extra time on our meeting because the correctional staff was short-handed for the holiday. It was all too beautiful.

Once back in the parking lot, my partner in crime and I wished one another a Merry Christmas and agreed we couldn’t have found a better way to spend this night. And don’t you know, I went to our church on Christmas Day and got so much more out of it because I had been saved by the bells the night before.

## Group Contributions — November, 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	<b>Mustard Seed</b>	<b>\$470.00</b>	<b>\$1,437.00</b>
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>\$200.00</b>
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Downtown</b>	<b>\$36.77</b>	<b>\$36.77</b>	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$200.00	Personal Stories Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$200.00	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	\$600.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>TLC</b>	<b>\$181.00</b>	<b>\$612.00</b>
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	\$711.00
<b>Liberty</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$757.77</b>	<b>\$5,623.78</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@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

#### 9th District Intergroup

4224 College Street  
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.

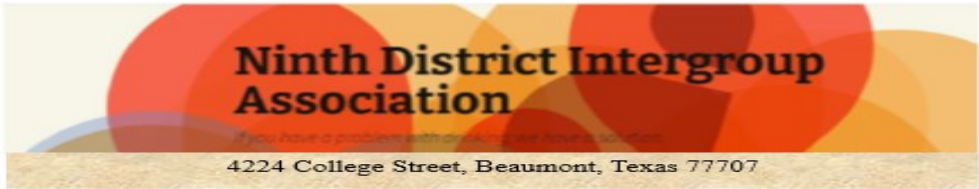
## TREATMENT FACILITY COMMITTEE

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**  
**January 7, 2024 At 2:00 PM**  
**West End Group**  
**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**  
  
Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

**Next 9th Dist.Intergroup Meeting**  
**January 28, 2024 At 2:00 PM**  
**West End Group**  
**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**  
  
Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.



## Holiday Open House

*Please Join Us On*  
*Saturday December 9, 2023*  
*10:00am to 4:00pm*  
*Refreshments*

**Enjoy 25% Off**  
**All Merchandise**

*(No Group Charges)*



# 61ST ANNUAL S.E.T.A. CONVENTION



WHAT SHAPE IS YOUR TRIANGLE?

JANUARY 19-21, 2024

## FRIDAY

7:30P AA - SHANE S., CHATTANOOGA, TN  
10:00P YPAA - KARA B., AUSTIN, TX

MOODY GARDENS CONVENTION CENTER  
7 HOPE BLVD, GALVESTON, TX, 77554

## SATURDAY

9:00A GSO - JAMES H., NEW YORK, NY  
10:45A ALATEEN - SPEAKER TBA  
11:00A AL-ANON - NANCY J., SANTA FE, TX  
1:30P AA - CFC CHUCK M., HOUSTON, TX  
4:00P AA SPANISH SPEAKER - FERNANDO L.,  
CHIAPAS, MX  
7:30P AA - PETER M., BOCA RATON, FL

WEBSITE - REGISTRATION - HOTEL



## SUNDAY

11:00A AA - JUDITH R., BISMARCK, ND

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE IS \$20 FOR AA/AL-ANON -BY 11/30  
HOTEL RATE - \$129 SINGLE/\$149 DOUBLE - BOOK BY 12/29

SETA CONVENTION, 2951 MARINA BAY DR., SUITE 130 BOX 273, LEAGUE CITY, TX., 77573



Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle one: AA Al-Anon Alateen  
 Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity/Type	Cost
___ AA Pre-registration	\$20 ___
___ Al-Anon Pre-registration	\$20 ___
___ Alateen/Child	Free ___
___ Coffee Badge	\$10 ___
___ Box Lunch - Saturday	\$20 ___
___ Banquet - Saturday Night	\$50 ___
___ Scholarship Donation	\$20 ___
<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$ ___</b>

[www.2024setaconvention.org](http://www.2024setaconvention.org)



# Happy Birthday To You!!!

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

### Mid-County Group December Birthdays

Last Tues of Month  
12/26/2023

- Joey W 4 years
- Bradley W 1 year
- Shelby W 2 years
- Carl B 3 years
- Zuri 1 years
- Mike 33 years



## 12th Step Principle Service

### 12th Promise

We suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

### Twelfth Step Prayer

*Dear God, Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that "faith without works is dead." And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this message to other alcoholics! Provide me with the guidance and wisdom to talk with another alcoholic because I can help when no one else can. Help me secure his confidence and remember he is ill.*



**We are not a  
glum lot.**