

Step 1

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us.

No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now becomes the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our bankruptcy as going human con-

cerns is complete.

But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

We know that little good can come to any alcoholic who joins A.A. unless he has first accepted his devastating weakness and all its consequences. Until he

so humbles himself; his sobriety—if any—will be precarious. Of real happiness he will find none at all. Proved beyond doubt by an immense experience, this is one of the facts of A.A. life.

This principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flowered.

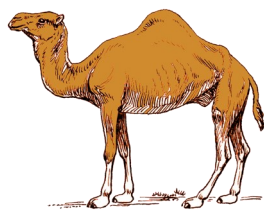
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 21– 22

Tradition 1 Long Form

“Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare should come first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.”

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, “What a great thing A.A. might have been!” Does this mean some will anxiously ask, “that in A.A. the individual doesn’t count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it?”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 129



I am responsible.
When anyone, any-
where, 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 I

"The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 4 of the Concepts Section

The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services — those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our Society to function as a whole. The groups assumed that responsibility at the St. Louis International Convention of 1955. There, on behalf, of Dr. Bob, the Trustees and A.A.'s old-time leaders, I made the transfer of world service responsibility to our entire Fellowship.

Why, and by what authority was this done? There were reasons of stark necessity for it, and there were further reasons which have to do with A.A.'s fundamental structure and tradition.

By the year 1948 our necessities had become clear enough. Ten years earlier—in 1938—helped by dedicated friends, Dr. Bob and I had commenced work upon a world service structure. Our first step was the creation of a trusteeship for A.A. as a whole. We called this body the Alcoholic Foundation; and in 1954 it was renamed The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This trusteeship was designed to inaugurate and maintain all of those special services for A.A. as a whole that could not well be performed by single groups or areas. We envisioned the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling the large numbers of pleas for help that might follow in the wake of national and international publicity. We thought in terms of aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups. We thought there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translations of our literature into other languages.

By 1950 nearly all of these dreams for world service had come true. In the dozen years following the creation of The Foundation, A.A. membership had jumped from 50 to 100,000. The A.A. Traditions had been written and adopted. A confident unity had pretty much replaced fear and doubt and strife. Our services had unquestionably played a large and critical role in this unfoldment. World service, therefore, had taken on crucial meaning for A.A.'s future. If these vital agencies were to collapse or bog down, our unity within and the carrying of our message to innumerable alcoholics without, would suffer serious and perhaps irreparable damage. Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood that they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship. Among the A.A. groups it had been proven that we could survive great strain and stress. But could we stand heart failure at our world center?

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 4 of the Concepts Section

AA GRAPEVINE



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

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



JANUARY 2024 | EMOTIONAL
SOBRIETY | SPECIAL SECTION

Doing just fine

BY: STEVE S. | MANHASSET,
NEW YORK

*As the battering rams pummel his
little slice of the world, he'll be
OK today because he's sober*

As I'm writing this, our electric meter is on the backyard table and the power is off in the house. The circuit breaker panel in the basement has been pulled off and we are waiting for the job to be finished. A short circuit yesterday was a sign of some real serious trouble, possibly even a future fire. I'm in my very own and deeply personal financial crisis. I'm hoping that sitting here and writing this down will save my life and keep me sober today, and possibly, dear reader, it may help others who feel just like I do right now.

I'm sitting at our wrought iron backyard table watching the men work on our electric line. My head is down, with a hat covering the emotionless expression on my face. There's a current edition of Grapevine sitting here next to my omnipresent carafe of strong brewed coffee. The magazine is cover-side down and my sun-shielded eyes focus on the Serenity Prayer. My spirit is meditating and trying, really trying, to absorb the words, espe-

cially the part about accepting the things I cannot change.

You see, the problem is money. This kind of electrical work is expensive, and when the money is tight, things are not all right. My anxiety and resentment are building. I can feel it. I start thinking... Why did I become physically disabled and knocked out of two professions at an early age? Why did alcoholism invade my life with mental, emotional and even spiritual deficits? I feel so darn helpless right now.

There's a passage in the Big Book about alcoholics being of good earning power, well off, etc., and it irks me. Don't our Ninth Step Promises say fear of economic insecurity will leave us? Then why is my (well-founded) fear still with me? I know the answer—it's because I'm (we are) human.

Just because the Steps are in my life and I'm living in the AA program of recovery doesn't mean the arrows and battering rams pummeling my little slice of the world can't hurt me and that I can't feel them. The pain is here now and it's real. It's not just the economic crisis, but family issues too. When it rains, it pours!

My old ways of coping—24 years ago as a matter of fact—would have had me rocketing off to oblivion. I would start with just "one drink" to calm me down and soothe my anger. But one drink was impossible.

I'm doing the best I can to be here for my family. The COVID pandemic hit us pretty hard financially. I can't see going on a nice family vacation in the foreseeable future. I can't see renovating the house like my wife and I would like or piling up a nice retirement income either. Since I got sober, my wife and I helped the kids. We have two sons

and a daughter who made it through both college and professional schools with honors. Isn't that what you're supposed to do when you're sober, take care of the family?

AA teaches us to live in the solution. This article wouldn't be helpful to read if I just "woe is me'd" through it. I was taught that if all I do is moan about the past (which no matter how much I try, I cannot change), and not live in today, then I won't have much of a tomorrow.

So as I sit here and watch this new costly power system go up, I realize a couple of things: First, my wife assures me that we won't have to live on the street after this work is over. And as far as we know today, we both have our health, and the kids are doing just fine. Our cat Walter seems pretty content too. Also, I have a feeling that even though the forecast says rain tomorrow, the sun will still rise.

But what do I do about the very real pain and the fear I have of the financial unknown? Well, I'm trying my best to look for a job, something in my chosen field. I speak freely with my friends and my sponsor about it, so I'm being proactive.

Just a moment ago a text flashed on my phone. It's a friend of mine, another AA. He's having troubles, really bad ones, ones that make mine look like blessings. Even worse, he drank two days ago. I think I'll call him and meet him in a virtual meeting, then spend some time chatting and maybe even do some Step work with him. Maybe I'll invite a couple of the other guys and we'll have a small AA meeting together. Now that's not so bad, is it?

Group Contributions — December, 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	\$0.00	\$1,202.00
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	\$220.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$5.54	\$42.31	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	TLC	\$0.00	\$612.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$100.00	Vidor	\$400.00	\$400.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$88.09
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$711.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$200.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$425.54	\$5,814.32

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. Come to the next District 90 GSR Meeting.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting

February 4, 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.



St. Francis
Eating-Speaking Meeting
January 13, 2024

SPEAKER
Marti R.
FROM
Buda, TX

6:00 Fellowship
6:30 Eating
7:30 Meeting

3810 N. Major Drive
(Wesley Church)

CHILD CARE PROVIDED

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 ___
Total Due	\$ ___

www.2024setaconvention.org



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



Mid County Group January
2024 Birthdays

Jonathon W-1 year

Abigail-1 year

**1st Step
Principle**

Honesty

1st Promise

**We are going to know a
new freedom and a new
happiness**



**We are not a
glum lot.**

