

## Step 2

**“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”**

The moment they read Step Two, most A.A. newcomers are confronted with a dilemma, sometimes a serious one. How often have we heard them cry out, “Look what you people have done to us! You have convinced us that we are alcoholics and that our lives are unmanageable. Having reduced us to a state of absolute helplessness, you now declare that none but a Higher Power can remove our obsession. Some of us *won't* believe in God, others can't, and still others who do believe that God exists have no faith whatever He will perform this miracle. Yes, you've got us over the barrel, all right —

but where do we go from here?”

Let's look first at the case of the one who says he won't believe — the belligerent one. He is in a state of mind which can be described only as savage. His whole philosophy of life, in which he so gloried, is threatened. It's bad enough, he thinks, to admit alcohol has him down for keeps. But now, still smarting from that admission, he is faced with something really impossible. How he does cherish the thought that man, risen so majestically from a single cell in the primordial ooze, is the spearhead of evolution and therefore the only god that his universe

knows! Must he renounce all this to save himself?

At this juncture, his A.A. sponsor usually laughs. This, the newcomer thinks, is just about the last straw. This is the beginning of the end. And so it is: the beginning of the end of his old life, and the beginning of his emergence into a new one. His sponsor probably says, “Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think. At least I've found it so.

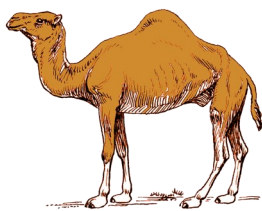
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* Pages 25,26

## Tradition 2

**“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servant's they do not govern”**

Where does A.A. get it's direction? Who runs it? This, too is a puzzler for every friend and newcomer. When told that our Society has no president having authority to govern it, no treasurer who can compel the payment of any dues, no board of directors who can cast an erring member into outer darkness, when indeed no A.A. can give another a directive and enforce obedience, our friends gasp and exclaim, “This simply can't be. There must be an angle somewhere.” These practical folk then read Tradition Two, and learn that the sole authority in A.A. is a loving God as He may express Himself in the group conscience. They dubiously ask an experienced A. A. member if this really works. The member, sane to all appearances, immediately answers, “Yes! it definitely does.” The friends mutter that this looks vague, nebulous, pretty naïve to them. Then they commence to watch us with speculative eyes, pick up a fragment of A.A. history, and soon have the solid facts.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* Page 132



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 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 II

**When, in 1955, the A.A. groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference — excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter — the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole society.**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section*

**It is self-evident that the thousands of A.A. groups and the many thousands of A.A. members, scattered as they are all over the globe, cannot of themselves actually manage and conduct our manifold world services. The group conscience is out there among them, and so are the needed funds. The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticize its operation is virtually supreme. They have all of the final responsibility and authority that there is. The operation is really theirs; they really own it. This has been true ever since the groups took over from the founders and old-timers at St. Louis in 1955.**

**But an ultimate authority and responsibility in the A.A. groups for world services — if that is all there were to it — could not amount to anything. Nothing could be accomplished on that basis alone. In order to get effective action, the groups must delegate the actual operational authority to chosen service representatives who are fully empowered to speak and to act for them. The group conscience of A.A. could not be heard unless a properly chosen Conference were fully trusted to speak for it respecting most matters of world service. Hence the principle of amply delegated authority and responsibility to “trusted servants” must be implicit from the top to the bottom of our active structure of service. This is the clear implication of A.A.’s Tradition Two.**

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 8 of the Concepts Section*

# AA GRAPEVINE



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

## To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



FEBRUARY 2024 | GETTING THROUGH TOUGH TIMES | SPECIAL SECTION

### Accepting the Road Ahead

BY: HELEN C. | ROCKWOOD, TENNESSEE

*A couple reaches for every tool AA has to find grace, peace and closure after a cancer diagnosis*

Miracles have been happening in my life and they started happening on October 9, 1986. That's the day I admitted I was an alcoholic and needed help. I had been confronted about my drinking on the job and was sent home from work. I was told to contact the company's human resources office. They recommended I go into treatment and start attending AA. I did what was suggested and went to my first meeting the next day. Miracle No. 1 had just occurred.

I didn't drink and went to another meeting the next day. Miracle No. 2 is that my sobriety has continued for the past 32 years.

I've grown old in this program while experiencing all the joys and sorrows of life. My most challenging time in sobriety came the day my husband was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Most of us know this is a death sentence, and being a registered nurse working in surgery, I had an idea of the journey before us. I was filled with fear, denial and anger. How could this be happening?

Our journey began with my husband and I praying together. Dan had 25 years of sobriety and I had 20 years. We both knew we were powerless and that our Higher Power was in charge.

We needed to follow directions, listen to the information given to us, pray, go to AA meetings and talk to our sponsors. We needed to allow each other to process this news at our own pace and in our own way.

My husband was a very private man and he prayed quietly in silence. I'm a vocal open book. I needed to talk, cry and plan for the future. We respected each other and our own journeys. We accomplished these goals with humble gratitude for our Higher Power and our lives in AA.

Dan accepted this diagnosis and the fight ahead of him. He did this with quiet dignity and gave himself permission to ask others for help. He continued living life with courage and his serenity inspired the family to walk with him on this path. We were not a "glum lot" as we found joy in each other. We were present for each moment, the good and bad ones, knowing that "this too shall pass."

I was so full of fear, I cried all the time. I did most of this when I was away from Dan. My drive to and from work was 45 minutes each way, perfect crying time. Surgery, chemo and radiation were devastating his body. My sweet husband did not complain and asked very little of me. Words cannot describe the pain I felt watching my loved one die. I know God carried each of us just as described in the poem "Footprints in the Sand." Dan and I did not drink and we were doing the best we could each day, but I was sure I would not survive without him. Dan was my best friend, confidant and lover. He took care of everything, such as bills and finances.

One day I asked him, "Who's going to hold my hand?" His reply, "Squeeze your hands. I will have one and God will have the other." I continue to do this 12 years later and it always makes me feel like a child between parents holding me up as they swing me.

All my self-centered feelings were brought front and center. I wanted to die with Dan. I did not want to be left behind. I prayed daily to die and received the same answer—no. One day

I was out walking, asking once again to die and getting the same answer, so I screamed, "All right, I'll live, but I'm not happy about it!" Acceptance is not always pretty or gentle, but it's the only way I know to peace and serenity. Now that that was settled, I could give love, support, encouragement and yes, even joy to Dan, our family and friends.

The program guided us through admitting our powerlessness, gaining a measure of sanity through our Higher Powers, literally turning our lives and wills over. Both of us continued to do inventories and promptly acknowledged our wrongs and we became closer to God, even when we did not understand our journey. We were given a spiritual awareness as a result of the Steps, enabling us to help other alcoholics.

Dan continued to go to AA meetings as long as he could. His friends brought meetings to our home when he could no longer go to meetings. We comforted our children and friends and Dan told me he would be waiting for me. If we can believe in beautiful deaths, his death certainly qualifies. It was physically difficult, but spiritually beautiful. My husband died 18 months after his diagnosis. We both tried to live each day to its fullest. We treasured our time and thanked God for giving it to us.

Today I'm alive and well. I'm grateful my Higher Power did not grant my request to die. I have wonderful friends in the rooms of AA. I'm able to be a grownup with responsibilities (pay bills, take care of problems). I have been given the gift of watching our grandchildren grow into wonderful young adults. I can share memories of Grampa because I'm sober and alive.

My journey is not unique, but it's mine. I do not know the end of my story, but I do know I won't be alone and God will take care of me. I see the miracles that have occurred and I know they'll continue to occur in my life as long as I'm sober.

## Group Contributions — January 2024

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	\$0.00
Any Lengths	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Bolivar</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$0.00
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	<b>Orange</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Personal Stories Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$0.00	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	\$0.00
<b>Jasper Noon</b>	<b>\$342.00</b>	<b>\$342.00</b>	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$562.00</b>	<b>\$562.00</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@abeaumont.org](mailto:steppingstones@abeaumont.org) — Web: [abeaumont.org](http://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 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 need break. Each facility requires a background check before you enter. For more information please come to next GSR meeting.

### 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

March 3, 2024 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

### Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

April 21, 2024 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Intergroup has an open position for **Delegate at Large**, please consider serving.

Contact Julian ( 409-331-4331) for more information



## 43rd ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 16, 17 & 18, 2024

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</b></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Cliff G Oklahoma City, OK.                  Fri. 10:00 PM AA TBD.                  Sat. 8:30 AM AFG Four Faces of Al-Anon                  Sat. 10:00 AM AA Terri K Woodville, OH.                  Sat. 12:30 PM AFG Alateen                  Sat. 01:00 PM AFG Lori G Oklahoma City, OK.                  Sat. 03:00 PM AA AA Skit / Workshop (TBD)                  Sat. 04:30 PM AA Old Timers                  Sat. 08:00 PM AA Francine W Mill Valley, CA.                  Sat. 10:00 PM Dance                  Sun. 10:00 AM AA Peter M, Boca Raton, FL.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>****Schedule and Speakers Subject to Change. ****</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL &amp; CONFERENCE CENTER</b>                  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 - 8-02-2024</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ONSITE REGISTRATION</b></p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 31, (AA/Al-Anon \$15, teen \$3)<sup>†</sup>                  Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 16, 2024 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 20 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>
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Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Door Prizes... 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 <sup>1</sup> <small>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter___Spanish Translator___Special Accom/Need</small>	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___ AA ___ Al-Anon ___ Alateen <sup>1</sup> <small>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter___Spanish Translator___Special Accom/Need</small>												
<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Pre-Registration:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Amt. Enclosed:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } AA @ \$ 15.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 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;"><b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b></td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </table>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$ _____	<p><b>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</b></p> <p><b>District 90 Convention Treasurer</b>  <b>PO Box 1591</b>  <b>Groves, TX 77619</b></p>
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:												
{ } AA @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	\$ _____												

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.



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



### Mid County Birthdays

February 2024

Last Tues of Month  
02/27/2024

- Brian N 17
- Stephen N 2
- Jennifer J 6
- Josalynn 16
- Alicia 7
- Trent 3



## 2nd Step Principle

# Hope

## 2nd Promise

We will not regret the past nor wish to close the door on it.



**We are not a glum lot.**