

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 unsparring 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

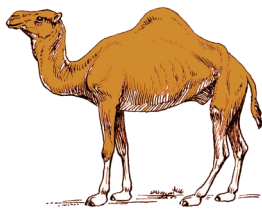
Tradition 8 Long Form

“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 2024 | DATING
& RELATIONSHIPS |
FEATURED SECTION

Love & Acceptance

BY: PEGGY B. | BETHANY BEACH,
DELAWARE

My husband and I are a “boy meets girl on AA campus” love story. I took a commitment at my Tuesday night meeting in Pacific Palisades, California, and he also had a commitment at that meeting. In May of 1987, we both celebrated three years of sobriety at that meeting, and it took about six months of dating before we fell in love. He proposed marriage and we chose November 5, 1988, for our wedding.

While we were engaged, he asked me to do him a favor and write down five things that I would change about him if I could. He said I didn’t have to show my list to him, just make a commitment to never try to change them. He said he would make a similar list about me. I didn’t like it so much that there were five things.

That little list has been a wonderful exercise in acceptance.

Whenever he does one of those things, I tell myself: He’s doing a number four again and I can’t change that, but I can have a good life anyway. Then I resolutely turn my attention to the rest of my “peeps” and the rest of my day. I could have been nagging him for the last 34 years and he wouldn’t have changed anything he does, and we would both have smoldering resentments.

One example: I used to take our daughter to Disneyland every Sunday because I didn’t like his church and I didn’t want to go there or to allow our daughter to go. She loved Disneyland; we have warm memories of our Sundays there. My husband doesn’t like amusement parks, so he was just as happy not going with us.

There were times when he and I were upset with each other, or frightened of something that was going on, or one of us had an emergency. There were many years when we both got so busy that we only saw each other for an hour a day before we collapsed asleep. Sometimes we took separate vacations and had adventures to tell each other when we returned. For one year, he worked in New York, I worked in Las Vegas and our daughter lived at school; we visited each other when we could. There were thin years and posh years, but we got through it all sober with the help of trusted AA friends and sponsors.

Epilogue: We raised our daughter and put her through college. She is married and lives and works in Washington, D.C. My husband and I moved to the East Coast town of Bethany Beach, Delaware (about two hours from our daughter), where we retired and where we both celebrated 37 years of sobriety in May 2021.

My husband and I are old now. We are good friends, better than I ever expected. I still don’t know what was on his list of five things he would change about me if he could. But I’m sure that we’ve benefited from his acceptance of me as much as we’ve benefited from my acceptance of him. A boy meets girl on AA campus love story? You bet!

In fellowship,

The Editor

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org

Group Contributions — July 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	\$80.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$50.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$500.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$610.00
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	\$0.00	\$420.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Personal Stories Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$100.00	\$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	\$400.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$342.00	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	\$10.04	TLC	\$0.00	\$229.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$127.16	Vidor	\$64.00	\$64.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$100.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$536.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$100.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$164.00	\$4,368.20

**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 1, 2024

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting October 20, 2024 at 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Excerpt from AA Grapevine January 1962

DEALING WITH YOUR TENSIONS

Take one thing at a time.

For some people under tension, an ordinary work load can be unbearable. The load looks so great that it becomes painful to tackle any part of it—even the things that most need to be done. When that happens, remember that it is a temporary condition and that you can work your way out of it. The surest way to do this is to take a few of the most urgent tasks and pitch into them, one at a time, setting aside all the rest for the time being. Once you dispose of these, you will see that the remainder is not such a horrible mess after all. You will be in the swing of things, and the rest of the tasks will go more easily. If you feel you cannot set aside any of the tasks to tackle this sensible way, reflect: are you sure you are not overestimating the importance of the things you do—that is your own importance?

Whaakey, Whaakey, Surrey, England



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

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Cliff G Oklahoma City, OK. Fri. 10:00 PM AA Malana Q Beaumont, TX. 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 Workshop Peter M. 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;">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 RATES - \$104 PER NIGHT / \$134 SUITE PER NIGHT / \$144 CABANA BALCONY VIEW EARLY DEADLINE - 7-31-2024</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">ONSITE REGISTRATION</p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 31, (AA/Al-Anon \$15, -teen \$3)[†] 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: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen ¹ Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen ¹ Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need												
<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 @ \$ 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;">TOTAL ENCLOSED</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </table> <p>¹Alateens must have signed permission slips!</p>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____	<p style="text-align: center;">MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">District 90 Convention Treasurer PO Box 1591 Groves, TX 77619</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p>ONLINE REGISTRATION QR CODE</p> </div>
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:												
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{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Alateen @ \$ 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/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!!!



August 2024 | Dating & Relationships | In Every Issue

At Wit's End

Man overboard!

After I was sober a while, some AA friends talked me into going on a cruise. It was my first time, and I didn't know what to expect. I was told that there would be AA meetings on the ship, so I went hoping it would calm my nerves. The meeting was a discussion meeting. It was really good—until the end when they had a sobriety countdown. During the countdown the captain got up and got a 24-hour chip.

I hope we make it home.

Jim S., Crescent Township, Pa.



8th Step Principle

**Reflection
Brotherly Love**

8th Promise

**Self-seeking will
slip away.**



**We are not a
glum lot.**