

## 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.”**

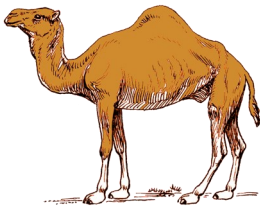
WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that “Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.” In years since then, we changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous—A.A. as a whole—should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming 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.

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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 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*

# AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

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September 2024 | Young and Sober | Our Personal Stories

## How Dry I Am

By: P.T. | Phoenix, Arizona

Growing up in sobriety has not been easy, and I didn't find that out until four years ago when I came back to AA. I had left the program for many years and came back after 26 years of not drinking. And I didn't return to AA relieved that I had found the answer. I hated AA. I hated sitting in the chair listening to drunkalogs and seeing those stupid sayings on the wall. I especially hated seeing how happy everyone was.

I came back because I had nowhere else to go. I was sick, not in the physical sense, but sick mentally and in my soul. I was emotionally bankrupt.

I got a sponsor and she was perfect for me. She didn't tell me to wait on working the Steps until I felt better. No, no, I was to do the Steps now. I immediately began my journey with her through the Steps.

In working Steps Four and Five, I found I

was always looking for someone to take care of me. I was shouldering all the financial responsibility for myself and my husband. I blamed him for my plight. I figured if I were to poison him and he were to die I would have all the money by selling the house. I'd be able to do anything I wanted then, so good riddance. This was my thinking at the time! This fantasy of mine was the ultimate act of selfishness. It was hard to look at myself, to see how dark my mind had become.

Growing up these past four years has taught me humility; that I'm not God. I did not have the right to determine the path of my future nor anyone else's. Today my life is none of my business. I rely on the spirit that has entered my soul and it's this spirit that takes care of me. My responsibility now is to help others grow in their sobriety.

Thanks to a sponsor who kicked my butt and to a Higher Power who led me back to AA, I have celebrated 30 years of sobriety and a newfound soundness of mind.

The Editor

[editorinchief@aagrapevine.org](mailto:editorinchief@aagrapevine.org)

## Group Contributions — August 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
<b>Any Lengths</b>	<b>\$680.00</b>	<b>\$680.00</b>	Mid County	\$0.00	\$80.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$50.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$500.00	<b>Mustard Seed</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>	<b>\$915.00</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>\$440.00</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	\$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	<b>St Francis</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>
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	<b>Vidor</b>	<b>\$73.00</b>	<b>\$137.00</b>
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$100.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$536.00
<b>Liberty</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,473.00</b>	<b>\$5,796.20</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 — Web: aabeaumont.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 6, 2024 at 2:00 PM**  
**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.

## Mid-County Group 47th Anniversary

Join Us for a Fun Day on Saturday, Sept. 21st, 2024  
908 Boston Ave., Nederland



### "DO I NOW BELIEVE"

- 10:30AM Registration
- 12:00PM AA Speaker Meeting:  
Melony H. Mid-County Group
- 1:00-2:00PM Lunch: Hotdogs
- 2:00-3:00PM Al-Anon Speaker Meeting:  
TBA
- 3:00-5:00PM Washer Tournament
- 5:00PM Dinner
- 8:00PM AA Speaker Meeting:  
Tom L. Lumberton Singleness of Purpose
- 9:15PM Raffle



# **SURRENDER**

**DISTRICT 90 GRATITUDE DINNER**

**NOVEMBER 23, 2024**

**THE OAKS**

**2110 S MAIN ST**

**VIDOR TX 77662**

**TICKET PRICES:**

**\$15.00 IN ADVANCE**

**\$20.00 AT THE DOOR**

**DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP - 4:30PM**

**ALANON SPEAKER**

**MARY W**

**MID COUNTY**

**NEDERLAND TX**

**5:30PM-6:30PM**

**AA SPEAKER**

**ALICIA H**

**SOUTH CITY GRP**

**LAKE CHARLES LA**

**8:00PM-9:00PM**

**EAT**

**6:30PM-7:30PM**

**DOOR PRIZES**

**7:30PM - 8:00PM**



# Happy Birthday To You!!!

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

We have to nurture the gift of sobriety so that we can celebrate our AA birthdays. How do we nurture the gift? Well, there are many ways, here is one way out of our Service Manual.

**A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.**

SERVICE MANUAL, p. S-1

September 2024 | Young and Sober | In Every Issue

## At Wit's End

### In need of a little nudge

When the pain of staying the same exceeds the pain to change, then I will change ... with help from a small nuclear blast.

Steve T., *Marysville, Kan.*

September 1999

### Ham on Wry

A DRUNK DECIDES to try horseback riding, even though she has had no lessons or prior experience. She mounts the horse unassisted, and the horse immediately springs into motion. It gallops along at a steady and rhythmic pace, but the drunk begins to slip from the saddle. In terror, she grabs for the horse's mane, but cannot seem to get a firm grip. She tries to throw her arms around the horse's neck but she slides down the side of the horse.

The horse continues its rhythmic galloping, impervious to its slipping rider. Finally, giving up her frail grip, the drunk attempts to throw herself to safety. Unfortunately, her foot has become entangled in the stirrup and she is now at the mercy of the galloping horse as her head is struck against the ground over and over. She is mere moments away from unconsciousness when, to her great good fortune, the Wal-Mart manager comes over and shuts the horse off.

By: Alexander | Greenbelt, Maryland



## 9th Step Principle

### Justice

## 9th Promise

Self-Seeking  
Will Slip Away.



**We are not a  
glum lot.**