

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

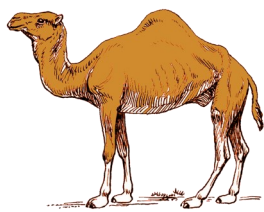
Tradition 12

“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. 187





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, Dist. 90 member experience	3
Group Contributions	4
Dst 90 GSR, Dst 90 2025 Conv & Intgrp Mtgs., 2025 SETA Conv.	5
Intergroup Open House	6
Group Birthdays, Ham on Wry, Excerpts from the 12&12, BB	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

GRAPVINE DECEMBER 1999

YOUR MOVE

Responses from readers to the question, "Where do you intend to be on New Year's Eve?"

The hope of a brighter future, from Pat S., Dixon, Illinois

As the clock strikes midnight to mark the beginning of a new millennium, I'll be sitting in my prison cell and wishing I could be in the free world, celebrating his once-in-a-lifetime event. At the same time I will be grateful to be alive to witness the turn of the century and thankful to have made it to the Fellowship of AA. I will realize that I could be sitting in my cell with no hope or thought of a brighter future. After serving eleven years in prison, I know the year 2000 means that I'm one-and-a-half years from release date, a release date I look forward to because this time I believe I can make it in a world that I rejected and which in turn rejected me. I look forward to my reinstatement as a member of society. This time I hope to be a useful, happy, sane, and *sober* member.

Invitation to a wedding, from Bernie S. and Nancy A.

At three o'clock on the afternoon of New Year's Eve 1999, at the All Saints Lutheran Church I, Bernie S. (Hilltop Group), will wed Nancy A. (also Hilltop Group). There will be a reception, followed by our group's one year anniversary, then a New Year's Eve dance with our AA friends, then two weeks of cross-country meetings (with some honeymoon stuff in between). When we asked for help, God sent us one million alcoholics. We know you can't all attend, but you certainly are welcome to.

On the road to Bali, from Val C., New York, New York

When I was drinking I was afraid to leave the safety and comfort of my favorite neighborhood bar, afraid what would happen to me while drunk in an unfamiliar place. In sobriety, one of my greatest joys has been travel. I've been all over the world and experienced wonderful AA meetings along the way. For New Year's Eve 1999, I've planned a trip to Thailand and Bali. On New Year's Eve, I'll be relaxing in a bungalow on Sanur Beach in Bali. I hope to find a local meeting to attend to welcome in the New Year.

Eat, don't drink, and make merry, from Tom D., Orlando, FL

My wife and I will be spending New Year's Eve, as we have for the past ten years, at an AA member's home next to a beautiful lake. His home is open to Aas and friends. A late meeting starts so that we can end just about midnight and celebrate the coming of the New Year. These have been the best New Year's I've had since getting sober twenty-five years ago.

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org

Where I intend to be on December 31, 2024, from Jan D., Beaumont, Texas

Seasons Greetings y'all. I picked the above excerpts from the December 1999 AA Grapevine magazine because I am very grateful for that month and year; you see, my sobriety date is December 26, 1999.

Where I intended to be on New Year's Eve 1999 was in my house with as much booze as I could hide from my husband. I thought there was nothing wrong with this thinking! Well, I planned and GOD laughed; you probably have experienced this saying. What actually happened was I was, once again, due to alcoholism, admitted to the hospital on December 26, 1999. I was there two weeks. I had to be medically detoxed; I was jaundiced and had uncontrollable bleeding from my gums due to liver failure. I am grateful for every second of that experience because it was filled with a grace that I will never understand (only experience), that led me to AA and AA has showed me how to use that grace to live sober with a faith and trust in a God I get to experience, one day at a time..

I intend to be in LIVING gratitude not just on December 31, 2024 but every day. Why? For the best gift I have ever received, which is a SOBER life beyond my wildest dreams.

Group Contributions — November, 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	\$680.00	Mid County	\$0.00	\$80.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$115.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$500.00	Mustard Seed	\$330.00	\$1,245.00
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	\$40.00	\$500.00
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	\$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	\$1,000.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$342.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$900.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$10.04	TLC	\$0.00	\$457.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$127.16	Vidor	\$0.00	\$137.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$100.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$131.00	\$667.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$200.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$551.00	\$7,260.20

**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@abeaumont.org — Web: 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

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 12, 2025 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

District 2025 Conv. Mtg.

(right after GSR Mgt. est 3:30)

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

January 19, 2025 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.



SOUTH EAST TEXAS AREA 67
presents

HAPPY 2025
Joyous
& Free

JANUARY 3-5, 2025

AT THE ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL - HOUSTON





Ninth District Intergroup Association

If you have a problem with drinking, we have a solution.

4224 College Street, Beaumont, Texas 77707



Holiday Open House

Please Join Us On

Saturday December 14, 2024

10:00am to 4:00pm

Refreshments

Enjoy 25% Off

All Merchandise

(No Group Charges)





Happy Birthday To You!!!

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



**HAM on WRY
DECEMBER 1999**

~Jim S., Melbourne, Florida

The drunk phoned the police to report that thieves had broken in to his car. "They've stolen the dashboard, the steering wheel, the brake pedal, even the accelerator," he cried out. Before the police investigation could get underway, the phone rang a second time. It was the drunk.

"Never mind," he said with a hiccup, "I got into the backseat by mistake."

**HAM on WRY
DECEMBER 2003**

~Carlos S., Alamo, Sonora

Another light bulb joke:

How many sponsors does it take to change a light bulb?

One—as long as the light bulb is willing to change.

~John W., Tucson, Arizona

A true story:

A newcomer and his sponsor are driving to a meeting when the sponsor stops and points to a sign in the window of a liquor store.. "Good Buys!" the ad promises.

"You know what that means?" asks the sponsor. "It means, GOOD-BYE JOB.....GOOD-BYE CAR.....GOOD-BYE HEALTH."

~Anonymous

"Drunk is feeling sophisticated when you can't even say it."



These experiences taught us that anonymity is real humility at work. It is an all-pervading spiritual quality which today keynotes A.A. life everywhere. Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as A.A. members both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Tradition, pg. 190
TRADITION TWELVE

Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends—this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.

Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 89

Chapter 7 (Step 12)

WORKING WITH OTHERS



**We are not a
glum lot.**