

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.

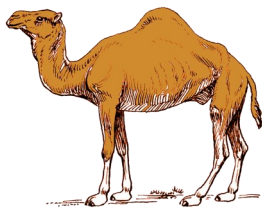
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 21– 22

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, 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 1—Tradition 1	1
Concept 1	2
Grapevine Story/New price	3
Group Contributions	4
Dist. Mtg./Intergroup Mtg., 2025 Tx State Convention	5
District 90 2025 Conv. Flyer	6
Happy Anniversary, At Wit's End, Ham on Wry, Excerpts from 12 & 12 and Big Book	7

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.

Email your experience to:
steppingstones@aabeaumont.org

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 2025 | Spirituality and Prayer | Featured Section

The Easier Way

By: Don M. | Greensboro, North Carolina

I was filled with a sickening dread when I came to my first AA meeting and heard, “There is one who has all power—that one is God. May you find him now!”

Oh no, I thought. AA is a religious organization, and I want no part of it. But I had tried every way I could think of to quit or control my drinking. Everything else failed. I was condemned to AA—to spend the rest of my days pretending that there’s some supernatural power. I was to become just another weak-minded cow brain.

Yet I was defeated. I was at least willing to try a morning prayer, “Please keep me sober” and then at night say, “Thank you.”

I prayed to “the nothing” as I called it. Soon the sober days became weeks and the weeks became months. The experiment worked.

In meetings I felt it was important to be rigorously honest when I talked about my Higher Power, so that people wouldn’t think I believed in huckster TV preachers getting rich on donations from their followers. Those were the preachers I used to drink and make fun of.

To avoid any misconception, I had to define my HP honestly from scratch every time. I would say something like, “the corporal force in the universe that connects all living things ... the interconnected web of existence which we’re all part of ... the spirit I feel at the ocean or overlooking a mountain vista.” It was a lot of work. One day I realized it would be easier to just use the word God. I jettisoned my old associations and let the word God mean the real thing that happened to me.

After all, in “Bill’s Story” in the Big Book, Ebby says, *“Why don’t you choose your own conception of God?” I had done that in my thinking, but now I could do that with the word itself! It was so much easier than having to feel and define my Higher Power anew all the time.*

This also means I have to allow others, conceptions of God. People may disagree with me and they may judge, even condemn me. I let them. It’s not my problem. I know what has happened to me. Now when I use the word God it refers to my own real experience.

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org

AA Grapevine, Inc. Announces a Price Increase on Books

December 2024, New York, NY: AA Grapevine, the international monthly journal of Alcoholics Anonymous, will add a \$1.00 increase to all book prices beginning February 1, 2025. This affects both Grapevine and La Viña titles.

AA Grapevine does not accept contributions or advertising and strives to be self-supporting through the sale of print and digital magazine subscriptions, books, and other items. The 2025 price increase will help AA Grapevine, Inc. keep up with the steadily rising paper, printing, and shipping costs that all publishers currently face.

AA Grapevine looks forward to and relies on your continued support. If you have any questions regarding this price increase, please contact Customer Relations.

Group Contributions — December, 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	\$0.00	\$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	\$20.00	\$520.00
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	\$300.00	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	\$0.00	\$667.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$200.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$120.00	\$7,380.20

**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: 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 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 2, 2025 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

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.

78th Annual TexAs State Convention

August 15-17, 2025 – Houston, TX

“Service is Love in Action”

AA Speakers

Donny M., Winnepeg, CA
Tammy Z., Spruce Pine, NC
Racy J. (GSO), NYC, NY
Wayne H., Frisco, TX
Hector H. (Spanish) El Salvador

Al-Anon

Magdalena E., Seattle, WA



Royal Sonesta Hotel

Houston Galleria Area
2222 W. Loop South
Houston, TX 77027
713-627-7600 (Direct)
800-766-3782 (Reservations)

\$149 Room Rate

Convention Code 081525TXSAA
Cut-off for \$149 rate is **7/18/2025**
Self-Parking: \$22.50/day

Convention Attractions

- 1st Timer Contest
 - AA Meetings
 - Archives Room
 - Hospitality Suite
 - Spanish Speakers & Workshop
 - Spanish Translation *(Bring your own earbuds)*
- The famous Houston Galleria and numerous restaurants within walking distance of the hotel!*

Website: txaaconvention.org | Email : info.houstontsc@gmail.com



44th ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 8-10, 2025

CONVENTION SPEAKERS	
Fri. 08:00 PM	TBA
Fri. 10:00 PM	TBA
Sat. 08:30 AM	Four Faces Of Alanon
Sat. 10:00 AM	TBA
Sat. 12:30 PM	TBA
Sat. 01:00 PM	TBA
Sat. 03:00 PM	TBA
Sat. 04:30 PM	TBA
Sat. 08:00 PM	TBA
Sat. 10:00 PM	Dance
Sun 10:00 AM	TBA

MCM ELEGANTE & CONFERENCE CENTER
 2355 IH 10 Access Rd South
 (GPS) 2355 Executive Blvd, Beaumont TX 77705
409-842-3600

Room Rates: \$107.00 Plus Tax
 Suites: \$134 Plus Tax
 Cabana Balcony View: \$147.00 Plus Tax
 Early Deadline: July 15, 2025

ONSITE REGISTRATION
 Pre-Registration Ends - July 15, 2025
 AA/ALANON \$20.00 ea ALATEEN \$5 ea
 Dance Only \$5 ea. Coffee inc/w registration
 Dance admission included with registration
 Dance Only tickets will be sold at the
 ballroom entrance door Saturday night

Hospitality Suites ... Sobriety Countdown ... First Timers Contest ... Door Prizes...
 Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social...
 We strive to be self supporting, please contribute to the coffee kitty and the Hospitality Suite cans

Badge1! _____
 Email: _____
 Address: City, State, Zip Code _____

 Badge Name: _____
 Home Group: _____
 Check One: AA _____ Al-Anon _____
 Alateen _____

Badge2! _____
 Email: _____
 Address: City, State, Zip Code _____

 Badge Name: _____
 Home Group: _____
 Check One: AA _____ Al-Anon _____
 Alateen _____

Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:
{ } AA @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Alateens must have signed permission slips!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND
 MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:
 District 90 Convention Treasurer
 PO Box 1591
 Groves, TX 77619

ONLINE REGISTRATION
 QR CODE





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



January 2025

At Wit's End

Look both ways! *Wendy C., North Vernon, Ind.*

Q: Why did the drunk cross the street?

A: He was looking for a geographical cure.

Q: Why did the newcomer cross the street?

A: He didn't want to clean up his side!

Q: Why did the AA cross the street?

A: To make amends on the other side.

Q: Why did the oldtimer cross the street?

A: To make coffee on the other side!

January 2006

Ham On Wry

AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE: *Shirley R. Greensboro, NC*

After spending the evening at a bar, a woman was in no shape to drive, so she left her car in front of the bar and headed home. Stumbling along the street, she was stopped by a police officer.

"What are you doing out here at 3 A.M.?" asked the officer.

"Going to a lecture," slurred the woman.

"And who is giving a lecture at this hour?" the cop asked.

"My husband," said the woman.



STEP ONE

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable."

Who cares to admit complete defeat? Admission of powerlessness is the first step in liberation. Relation of humility to sobriety. Mental obsession plus physical allergy. Why must every AA hit A.A. bottom?

12 & 12, Contents, THE TWELVE STEPS

Page 5

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Pages 30-31

We do not like to pronounce any individual as alcoholic, but you can quickly diagnose yourself. Step over to the nearest barroom and try some controlled drinking. Try to drink and stop abruptly. Try it more than once. It will not take long for you to decide, if you are honest with yourself about it. It may be worth a bad case of the jitters if you get a full knowledge of your condition.



**We are not a
glum lot.**