

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.

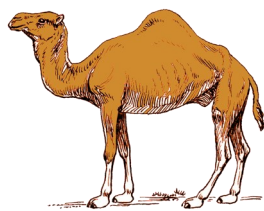
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions Pages 25,26

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/>

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February 2025 | Longtimers | Featured Section

Still Learning

By: June B. | Columbus, Ohio

When I was caught up in active alcoholism, I believed I was unique. And being told often that I was pretty, I rested in the belief that some man would always be there to support me. My father had always been the breadwinner of our family. After I married, my husband brought home his paycheck just like my father had.

I had no work history when I walked into a bar, picked up a drink, left my family and stepped into full-blown alcoholism. *Voila! A man sat down beside me at the bar, drew out his wallet, gave me some good pick-up line and bought me a drink. My prospecting career had begun.*

I drank for 11 years, sometimes daily. I learned to work as a barmaid when I was between lovers. I was always in love with whomever was “paying the freight.” I planned that when I grew weary of the bar life, I would marry. It was my understanding that as a wife, I would not be expected to earn an income.

When my physical tolerance for alcohol finally gave out, my doctor sent me to AA. I was told on the first day there that I would need to get a sponsor. My idea of sponsorship then included an automobile and rent money. The Twelfth Stepper who helped me told me she would be my sponsor and teach me to stop drinking and show me how to live a life based on spiritual principles. She didn’t understand that a unique beauty like me had a better definition of the word “sponsor.” I decided to humor her until the real deal showed up.

Old habits die hard. I found a couple more shiny items after I sobered up. Eventually, I learned the difference between fool’s gold and the real McCoy. As the years passed, I learned some great skills that not only allowed me to value men as treasured friends, but also taught me to pay my own way financially and to rely on my Higher Power for guidance and council.

On May 7, 2020 I celebrated 50 years of uninterrupted sobriety. This was during the COVID pandemic. The celebration that was planned in my honor had to be cancelled. It was perfect timing. I got to sit softly with my Higher Power and give credit where it was due.

God does good work. AA has shown me how to maintain this priceless gift. And it also taught me two great things: I’m only unique to my momma, and all that glitters isn’t gold.

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Can We Choose? As Bill Sees It, page 4

We must never be blinded by the futile philosophy that we are just the hapless victims of our inheritance, of our life experience, and of our surroundings—that these are the sole forces that make our decisions for us. This is not the road to freedom. We have to believe that we can really choose.

“As active alcoholics, we lost our ability to choose whether we would drink. We were the victims of a compulsion which seemed to decree that we must go on with our own destruction. Yet we finally did make choices that brought about our recovery. We came to believe that alone we were powerless over alcohol. This was surely a choice, and a most difficult one. We came to believe that a Higher Power could restore us to sanity when we became willing to practice A.A.’s Twelve Steps. In short, we chose to ‘become willing,’ and no better choice did we ever make.

Group Contributions — January 2025

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	\$65.00	\$65.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	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	Orange	\$20.00	\$20.00
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	\$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	\$600.00	\$600.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	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	\$84.00	\$84.00	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	\$283.00	\$283.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$1,052.00	\$1,052.00

**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

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 2, 2025 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

(Dist. 90 Convention Mtg. Est. 3:30)

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

April 13, 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!

Spring Into Action !!!

Ninth District Intergroup Association Inc.

Spring Round Up

March 29, 2025 * 5PM-9PM

Rogers Park Recreation Center

6540 Gladys Ave * Beaumont TX

5:00 PM - Claude G. AAnon Speaker

6:00 PM - Raffle

6:30PM - Dinner

7:30PM - Gerald R. AA Speaker

8:30PM - Raffle

Tickets - \$20

Raffle Tickets - 6 for \$5



**INTERGROUP WISHES EVERYONE CELEBRATING
IN FEBRUARY A JOY FILLED
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!**

**AA Grapevine, February 1981
ONCE OVER LIGHTLY,**

Sense and nonsense on the road to recovery

A FELLOW DIED, went to the gates of heaven, and was told by St. Peter that he had been assigned to hell. "You have a choice," said the saint. "You can go to the regular hell or to drunkards' hell, although the treatment is the same—you're doused with gasoline and set on fire."

"So what's the choice?" asked the deceased

"I'd suggest drunkards' hell," said St. Peter. "They're usually so buzzed-up that someone forgets to bring the gasoline or the matches."

AA

ON THE TOPIC OF FIRE, D. N. of California sent in a joke about two old guys from a

rural area who drank together, hard and often, at a village tavern. One night, one of the didn't show up, and the bartender told the other, "I've got bad news. Last night, your pal got so drunk that when he blew out the candle at bedtime, his breath caught fire and he exploded."

The other old gent was so shocked that he took an immediate pledge — never to blow out another candle.

AA

ANOTHER TALE about drinkers and cars involved two ranchers who came out of a saloon carrying a passed-out friend. "Let's just throw him in the back of the truck," said one.

"No way," replied the other. "He'd fall out and get killed. Let him drive."

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org



**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
THERE IS A SOLUTION
pgs. 22-23**

We know that while the alcoholic keeps away from drink, as he may do for months or years, he reacts muck like other men. We are equally positive that once he takes any alcohol whatever into his system, something happens, both in the bodily and mental sense, which makes it virtually impossible for him to stop. The experience of any alcoholic will abundantly confirm this.

These observations would be academic and pointless if our friend never took the first drink, thereby setting the terrible cycle in motion. Therefore, the main problem of the alcoholic centers in his mind, rather than in his body. If you ask him why he started on that last bender, the chances are he will off you any one of hundred alibis. Sometimes these excuses have a certain plausibility, but none of them really makes sense in the light of the havoc an alcoholic's drinking bout creates. They sound like the philosophy of the man who, having a headache, beats himself on the head with a hammer so that he can't feel the ache. If you draw this fallacious reasoning to the attention of an alcoholic, he will laugh it off, or become irritated and refuse to talk.



**We are not a
glum lot.**