

Step 3

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him* .”

Practicing Step Three is like the opening of a door which to all appearances is still closed and locked. All we need is a key, and the decision to swing the door open. There is only one key, and it is called willingness. Once unlocked by willingness, the door opens almost of itself, and looking through it, we shall see a pathway beside which is an inscription. It read: “This is the way to a faith that works.” In the first two Steps we were engaged in reflection. We saw that we were powerless over alcohol, but we also perceived that faith of some kind, if only in AA itself, is possible to anyone. These conclusions did not require action; they required only acceptance.

Like all the remaining

Steps, Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God — or, if you like, a Higher Power — into our lives. Faith, to be sure, is necessary, but faith alone can avail nothing. We can have faith, yet keep God out of our lives. Therefore our problem now becomes just how and by what specific means shall we be able to let Him in? Step Three represents our first attempt to do this. In fact, the effectiveness of the whole A.A. program will rest upon how well and earnestly we have tried to come to “a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*.”

To every worldly and practical-minded beginner,

this Step looks hard, even impossible. No matter how much one wishes to try, exactly how *can* he turn his will and his own life over to the care of whatever God he thinks there is? Fortunately, we who have tried it, and with equal misgivings, can testify that anyone, anyone at all, can begin to do it. We can further add that a beginning, even the smallest, is all that is needed.

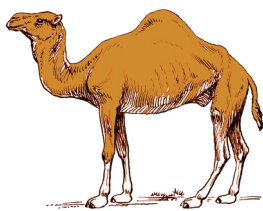
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions
Pg. 34 ,35

Tradition 3

“Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”

This Tradition is packed with meaning. For A.A. is really saying to every serious drinker, “You are an A.A. member if *you say* so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you’ve gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications — even your crimes — we still can’t deny you A.A. We don’t *want* to keep you out. We aren’t a bit afraid you’ll harm us, never mind how twisted or violent you may be. We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we’ve had. So you’re an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions -pg. 139



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.

March 2024

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Stepping Stones is a monthly newsletter of the Ninth District Intergroup with the office located at: 4224 College St. Beaumont, Texas 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 re-

Concept III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 11 of the Concepts Section

Within the framework of their general responsibilities, whether these be defined by charter, by resolution, or by custom, it should be the traditional right of all world service boards, committees, and executives to decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions. We ought to trust our world servants with these discretions, because otherwise no effective leadership can be possible. Let us consider in detail, therefore, why the need for a "right of decision" in our leadership is imperative, and let us examine how this principle can be applied practically in all levels of our structure of world service.

We have seen how the A.A. groups, under the concept of the "group conscience," are today holding the ultimate authority and the final responsibility for world services. We have also noted how, by reason of the Conference Charter and the "trusted servant" provision of Tradition Two, the groups have delegated to their General Service Conference full authority to manage and conduct A.A.'s world affairs.

The Conference and General Service Board Charters in broad terms define the responsibility of the Conference to act on behalf of A.A. as a whole. In these two documents a necessarily large area of delegated service authority and responsibility has been staked out. These instruments, in a general way, describe the relation between the groups, the Conference, the Trustees and the active service units. These broad definitions and descriptions are an indispensable frame of reference, and we could not function without them.

Nevertheless it has been long evident that these highly important Charter provisions cannot *by themselves* ensure smooth functioning and proper leadership at the several different levels of service which are involved. This has become crystal clear, and we need not seek very far for the reasons.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 11 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

*We begin to change
when first
we enter*

SPIRITUAL TERRITORY

Several Twenty-Four hours ago, when I arrived at the doors of AA beaten, battered and “sick and tired of being sick and tired,” I had a spiritual awakening. This did not com accompanied by by strains from a heavenly choir, Bright shafts of light, nor a feeling of elation accompanied by preparation for canonization.

Then how, your’re probably wondering, did I know I’d had a spiritual awakening? I knew because I began to change. From that moment on, things were different. That clear October afternoon, I was granted a moment of clear thought, and I knew that I had to stop drinking. In a small, unpretentious room, I stood face-to-face with another alcoholic and asked for help. I was ready. As she told me her story, some of my malignant cynicism began to leave me.; the empty space within flooded with hope. I remember we had our first snowfall of the season that evening, and for the first time in years, I felt awe and wonder at beauty.

The very next dy, I began attending AA meetings regularly. I felt clean and new. The momentum of hope within me grew and hummed and sang. My ears of alcoholic drinking had hurt my loved ones and provided a sordid environment in which my spirit wallowed and a medium in which the cancer of alcoholism advanced. But now the process was reversed, and the horrible symptoms of alcoholism began to be arrested, physical, mentally, and spiritually. The restoration began; health began to assert itself within me.

You see, I came to AA believing I had all the answers to the knotty problems f life. I could handle (I thought) my feelings, my relationships, my whole life—with the exception of booze. My attitude was one of general arrogance. In short, I put a lot of stock in my limited self. I agreed to allow God to help me with my booze problem, but that was as far as I was willing to go with Him. Granted, I had been knocked down by booze, but I was young, and I felt all I needed was to get my driver’s license back and gt a car and a job, and all would go smoothly according to my plan.

If someone had told me three and one-half years ago that in order to get sober I would have to (1) see my ego die, (2) admit to insane behavior, (3) rely on a Higher Power, (4) admit my wrongs, (5) go to meeting, (6) face my problems, I would have balked and fled to the of “an easier, softer way” and would have drunk myself to death—a fate I’m sure I would have preferred to the aforementioned list!

But I was not given a list of must. I was told that all I had to do was stay away from one drink for one day, and everything else would take care of itself. My sponsor impressed upon me this basic concept of recovery. She also suggested that I ask a Power greater than myself to help me stay away from one drink for one day. I believed what she told me, and the magic of AA worked for me.

Today I have that driver’s license back, a car, a job, a home, a husband (he’s AA, too—what a fringe benefit), and everything I need. But my most cherished possession in life is my sobriety. I have in my gut the basic knowledge that if I stay away for one drink for one day, everything else will take care of itself. I thank God every day for guiding me surely, in spite of myself, to the acceptance of this truth.

L. C., Portsmouth, R.I.
AA Grapevine, March 1978
editorinchief@aagrapevine.org

Group Contributions — February 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	\$0.00	\$65.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$375.00	\$375.00
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	\$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	\$0.00	\$600.00
Jasper Noon	\$513.60	\$513.60	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	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$283.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$50.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$938.60	\$1,990.60

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 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

Delegate & Alt. Delegate to give report

April 6, 2025

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th District Intergroup Meeting

April 20, 2025

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: txaacconvention.org | Email: info.houstontsc@gmail.com

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. AlAnon 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 A
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
To All The March Celebrants*

AA Grapevine, March 2000

Ham on Wry

By: Shirlene H. | Bountiful, Utah

SIGN ON A LIQUOR STORE in Gulfport, Mississippi:
"We install and service hangovers."

By: Anonymous | New York, New York

DEFINITION OF AN ALCOHOLIC BOTTOM: when
things get worse faster than you can lower your standards.

By: Dave S.

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, Judy stood up at the local pub and
said that it was time to get ready.

"At the stroke of midnight," she said, "I want everybody to
be standing next to the one person who has made your life
worth living."

The bartender was nearly crushed to death.

By: Matt W.

THE PATIENT WAS LYING IN BED, still groggy from
the effects of the recent operation. His doctor came in, look-
ing very glum.

"I can't be sure what's wrong with you," the doctor said. "I
think it's the drinking."

"All right," said the patient. "Can we get an opinion from a
doctor who's sober?"

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org



A Promise of the 3rd Step

BB page 63

When we sincerely took such a
position, all sorts of remarka-
ble things followed. We had a
new Employer. Being all pow-
erful, He provided what we
needed, if we kept close to Him
and performed his work well.
Established on such a footing
we became less and less inter-
ested in our selves, our little
plans and designs. More and
more we became interested in
seeing what we could contrib-
ute to life. As we felt new pow-
er flow in, as we enjoyed peace
of mind, as we discovered we
could face life successfully, as
we became conscious of His
presence,, we began to lose our
fear of today, tomorrow or the
hereafter We were reborn.



**We are not a
glum lot.**