

## STEP 6

**“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”**

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults — *without reservations whatever* — has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can — and will, under certain conditions — remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this: “Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own will-power just wouldn’t work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends, doctors, and clergymen got

no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished. It was lifted right out of me.”

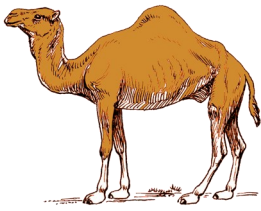
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 63*

## TRADITION 6 LONG FORM

**“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. — and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one. ”**

*The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.*

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 155*



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 VI

***On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.***

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section*

**Just as the A.A. Groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act freely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself.**

**This critical need for Trustee liberty of action raises several important questions. Next to the Conference, A.A.'s Board of Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants that we have, and therefore we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at top effectiveness over the years to come. We shall need to review and perhaps amend somewhat our present methods of choosing Trustees. We shall need to define clearly the several kinds of professional and financial skills that will always be required for a balanced trusteeship. Only by so doing can we permanently insure the Board's capability of future leadership.**

**In order to avoid continuous confusion, it will also be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference and just how they in turn should relate themselves to their active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. (including its division of A.A. Publishing) and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., our monthly magazine .**

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section*



# AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous <http://www.aagrapevine.org/>

July 2010

## BIKES AND BAGPIPES

BY: KELLY W. | MAUMEE OHIO

### A rider in the annual Founders' Day motorcade finds new spirituality in Akron

FOUNDERS' Day comes once a year in the city of Akron, in the state of Ohio. I recently dedicated the first weekend in June to be there for the celebration of sobriety. And for me the best part was on Sunday, when a procession of motorcycles went to Dr. Bob's gravesite. Here there was such harmony, emotions, spiritual awareness and respect shown for Dr. Bob, but also for each other. We were held together through one common bond: alcoholism. People come from all over the world to take part in this celebration.

Last year, at 7:30 A.M., the roaring of motorcycles was all I could hear. Thousands of bikes--all different styles, models and colors--were lined up into four single file lines that took up the radius of one city block, near the University of Akron. The police blocked off the streets to provide safety for the motorcade and to prevent the bike procession from being broken up.

As the bikes proceeded to the cemetery, people on the sidewalks cheered for us. Some waved, some gave peace signs, and others held up signs with slogans on them. The best sign I saw was on a fluorescent orange posterboard. In large, bold, black marker lettering, it said, "Ain't it great to be sober?"

It was at that moment that my eyes began to water. As we approached the graveyard, the cemetery fence was lined with fellow alcoholics who cheered us on. I saw two of my close friends right at the gate and I just started bawling.

At Dr. Bob's gravesite, bagpipers played "Amazing Grace." I closed my eyes to let the sound of the pipes and the voices of the crowd singing flow through my spirit. This meant so much to me. It reminded me of the person I once was, and where I was at that point of my life: "I once was lost but now I'm found; was blind but now I see." After the bagpipes came the Serenity Prayer, and then a eulogy to Dr. Bob, with a little of his own Twelve Step history. Next, everyone put a coin of recovery on the gravestone--paying our respects to one of the men who saved our lives by providing a program of recovery from a disease once considered hopeless.

As part of the Founders' Day celebration, Dr. Bob's home was opened to the public. People were able to gather inside the original house and sit at the same table where a Fellowship like no other began. To kneel beside the same bed that some of our first members kneeled at, to pray the prayer giving oneself to God, and to look at the original black-and-white photographs of our cofounders and the original members of Alcoholics Anonymous--there was nothing else like it! It was amazing that everything in the house was left as it was. I could picture myself there with them so long ago. It was almost as if I were right there with them.

Although Dr. Bob is deceased, harmony and unity are maintained through the principles he helped to pass on. This celebration that I, and so many others, came to see and experience helps to keep his memory alive. He lives through the rest of us. Dr. Bob and Bill W. have taught millions how to live a better way of life. Our Fellowship continues to grow, bringing hope to people every day. These men gave freely of themselves to maintain their own sobriety. This is where the slogan "Give it away to keep it" came from. We alcoholics have a common bond, which brings so many types of people together who normally would not mix. Love, unity, tolerance, service to others, and recovery are our codes.

I always get more inspiration, spiritual awareness and new perspectives each Founders' Day than the year before, as I join my "family" to celebrate sobriety. This year I cried tears of gratitude with a feeling of purpose as I entered the cemetery. This is another reminder for myself, and many others why we must stay on the path of recovery. I also cried tears of sadness for a friend I had lost to this disease, a friend who helped save my life at my first Founders' Day. I go to Founders' Day every year as spiritual maintenance, which is contingent to my personal recovery. I go to pay my respects to one of the men who made my life different. I go to take part in a great celebration of life, death, and most importantly--recovery!

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org

## Group Contributions May 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	\$400.00	Mid County	\$0.00	<b>\$85.00</b>
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$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	<b>Orange</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</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	\$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	\$0.00	\$513.60	<b>St Francis</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$255.00
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
<b>Liberty</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$390.00</b>	<b>\$3,095.60</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](mailto:steppingstones@abeaumont.org) — Web: [abeaumont.org](http://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.

## *Announcements*

### Next District 90 GSR Meeting

June 29, 2025 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett Beaumont, TX

2025 Dist. Conv. Mtg. @ Elegante Hotel

10:30am

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

### Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

July 20, 2025 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

# 78<sup>th</sup> 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

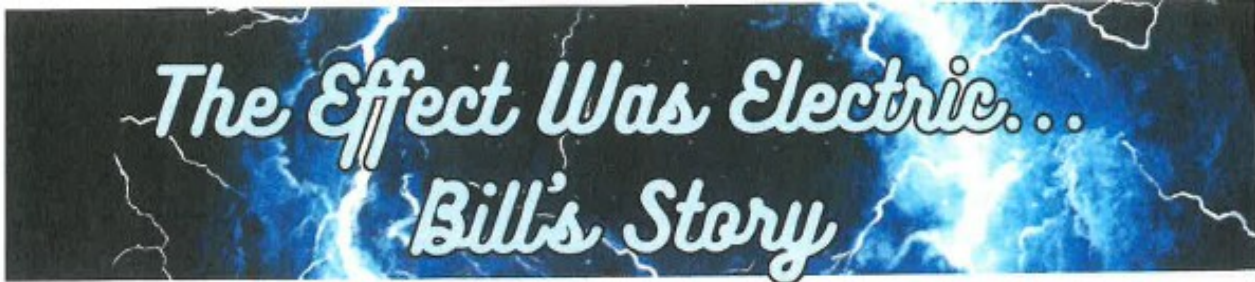
Houston Galleria Area  
 2222 W. Loop South  
 Houston, TX 77027  
 713-627-7600 (Direct)  
 800-766-3782 (Reservations)  
**\$149 Room Rate**  
 Convention Code 081525TXSAA  
 Cut-off for \$149 rate is **7/18/2025**  
 Self-Parking: \$22.50/day

### 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!*



## 44th ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 8th, 9th & 10th, 2025

CONVENTION SPEAKERS	
Fri. 08:00 PM	Stephen P - Lansdowne, PA
Fri. 10:00 PM	TBA - Local From District 90
Sat. 08:30 AM	Four Faces Of Al-Anon
Sat. 10:00 AM	Joe Mc. - Galveston, TX
Sat. 04:00 PM	Laura S. - Austin, TX
Sat. 08:00 PM	Chris R. - Ingram, TX
Sat. 10:00 PM	Dance
Sun 10:00 AM	Iron Mike - Bacliff, TX

2355 IH 10 Access Rd South  
MCM ELEGANTE & CONFERENCE CENTER  
(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/AL-ANON \$20.00 ea AL-ATEEN \$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

<p><b>Name1:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Email:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____</p> <p><b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Badge Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Home Group:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen</p> <p><small>Check if needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Needs</small></p>	<p><b>Name2:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Email:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Address:</b> _____</p> <p><b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Badge Name:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Home Group:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen</p> <p><small>Check if needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Needs</small></p>												
<table style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Pre-Registration</th> <th style="text-align: right;">Amt. Enclosed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> AA @ \$15.00 Each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon @ \$15.00 Each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Alateen @ \$ 3.00 Each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Donation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>\$ _____</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Alateens must have signed permission slips</b></p>	Pre-Registration	Amt. Enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> AA @ \$15.00 Each	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon @ \$15.00 Each	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Alateen @ \$ 3.00 Each	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<p><b>Make Checks Payable To And Mail Registration Forms To:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District 90 Convention Treasurer PO Box 1591 Groves, TX 77619</p> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p><small>Online Registration QR Code</small></p> </div>
Pre-Registration	Amt. Enclosed												
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<input type="checkbox"/> Alateen @ \$ 3.00 Each	\$ _____												
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>												

We urge everyone to pre-register and book any rooms before the July out-off date where possible. This helps keep registrations fees low/max. convention exp./hospitality/available scholarships - that we serve and Carry the Message.



**Happy Birthday To You!!!**

**Intergroup would like to congratulate everyone who is celebrating a Birthday in June !!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**June 10, 1935—June 10, 2025**

**AA CELEBRATES 90 YEARS!!!**

Let's celebrate AA's 90 years of changing lives by living in gratitude, service, joy and freedom. These actions will ensure that AA will have 90 more years to help people with a common peril find a common solution through harmonious action.

We are so fortunate that AA has shown us **A WAY OF LIFE (AWOL)** that works for **ALL** that life has to offer.

On June 10th I will spend a few moments thinking about how two alcoholics (Bill and Bob) met, spent time together and AA was formed. I only have one word; **MIRACLE**

Jan D., Beaumont, Tx

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**June 2010**

**At Wit's End**

By: Anonymous

**Oldie but goodie**

A penniless drunk sees a sign in a bar: "Free Drinks Tomorrow!" He returns the next day to claim his drinks.

The barman stops polishing a glass and points at the sign.

So the drunk comes back the next day. . .

*(drunk version of "one day at a time")*

**June 2005**

**Ham on Wry**

By: Anonymous

**HEARD AT MEETINGS....**

"We the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long with so little, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing."

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org



**12 Steps & 12 Traditions  
Step 6, Page 65**

So Step Six —“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character”— is A.A.'s way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job. This does not mean that we expect all our character defects to be lifted out of us as the drive to drink was. A few of them may be, but with most of them we shall have to be content with patient improvement. The key words “entirely ready” underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know or can learn.

**Step 6, Page 68**

If we would gain any real advantage in the use of this Step on problems other than alcohol, we shall need to make a brand new venture into open-mindedness. We shall need to raise our eyes toward perfection, and be ready to walk in that direction. It will seldom matter how haltingly we walk. The only question will be “Are we ready?”



**We are not a  
glum lot.**