

## Step 7

**“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”**

Since this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it means to us.

Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.’s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.’s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven’t much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it, they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in

adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.

Humility, as a word and as an ideal, has a very bad time of it in our world. Not only is the idea misunderstood; the word itself is often intensely disliked. Many people haven’t even a nodding acquaintance with humility as a way of life. Much of the everyday talk we hear, and a great deal of what we read, highlights man’s pride in his own achievements.

With great intelligence, men of science have been forcing nature to disclose her secrets. The immense resources now being harnessed promise

such a quantity of material blessings that many have come to believe that a man-made millennium lies just ahead. Poverty will disappear, and there will be such abundance that everybody can have all the security and personal satisfactions he desires. The theory seems to be that once everybody’s primary instincts are satisfied, there won’t be much left to quarrel about.

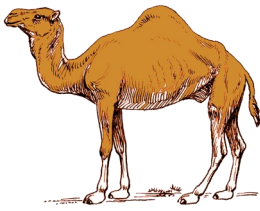
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 10*

## Tradition 7 Long Form

**“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligations whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A. A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”**

Self-supporting alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that’s what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that A.A. has wrought in all of us. Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can’t cure. Always, we’ve had our hands out. Time out of mind we’ve been dependent upon somebody, usually money-wise. When a society composed entirely of alcoholics says it’s going to pay it’s bills, that’s really news.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 160*



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 VII

**The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section*

**This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services, while on the other hand we find that A.A.'s General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them—practically speaking.**

**This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate—viz., the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves. Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking it has all of the ultimate rights and powers that it may ever need.**

**When we reflect that our Trustees have no salaried financial interest in their posts, we can be quite sure that such a Board would never think of legally contesting the clear and sustained will of the Conference Delegates and the A.A. areas they represent.**

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section*



# AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

## Grapevine Online Exclusive

July 2025 | AA Celebrates 90 Wonderful Years! | Tradition Seven

### OMG We're Broke!

By: Clyde M. | Dallas, Texas

**He had just gotten elected to be his group's new treasurer when the terrible news came in. No money? How would they ever pay the rent?**

After my first 90 days sober, members of my home group suggested it was time for me to get active. I disagreed, but my sponsor thought it was a great idea. Soon after the position of group treasurer just happened to open up and my sponsor nominated me for the position. Before I knew what had happened, the group unanimously elected me to the job. Unanimous! Wow. I felt so pleased. However, it didn't take long for my ego to deflate. First, I was the sole candidate and second, my home group was not in great financial shape.

Though we regularly practiced the Seventh Tradition of passing the basket, our meeting the last few months had not yielded even close to enough money to meet all the group's expenses. Our rent was due the next week and that meant we would be in arrears. Our landlord had no sympathy, understanding of or interest in the AA program. If we didn't collect enough to pay the current rent, the unpaid balance would double what we needed next month.

Alarmed over the encroaching disaster, I called our group chairperson and advised him that we were in trouble. He scheduled a group conscience meeting for the next Saturday to address the shortage and discuss solutions.

When Saturday arrived, there was a knot in my stomach. I couldn't imagine how the group would survive. Even worse, it would all be happening on *my watch!* I would be known as the member in charge when our group sank into a sea of red ink..

Eleven group members showed up for the group conscience meeting. Eleven members were better than none, but I had expected many more. Didn't my fellow sober alcoholics realize this was a major disaster?

The group chairman opened the meeting, and the first order of business was the treasurer's report. I nervously read the miserable figures aloud, and when I finished there was an uncomfortable silence in the room. After what seemed like a long time, a senior member made a suggestion. "Why don't we pass the basket right now and bring our deficit up to date?" he proposed. "We can start looking at solutions once we better understand exactly where we stand."

Everyone agreed, and with only 11 people, the basket didn't take but three minutes to go around and then be returned to me. I began counting. It took less than three minutes. There were nine \$20 bills and two personal checks, each for \$100. My voice wavered as I read aloud the new treasury bottom line. We now had enough to pay the rent and had half of next month's expenses.

The oldtimer who had suggested passing the basket looked around and asked, "Anything else?" Everyone shook their heads no. "OK," he said. "Let's close with the Lord's Prayer." Our group conscience meeting lasted less than 10 minutes.

That's all it took for 11 group members to save us from disaster? My head was spinning. I needed to talk with my sponsor. I spoke to him rapidly, disjointedly. I wasn't sure how to explain the sudden deliverance from bankruptcy I had just witnessed.

My sponsor spelled out the meaning of the Seventh Tradition. He explained two reasons why AA groups must be self-supporting. Without it, our ultimate authority—a loving God—would be replaced by our new financial partner's board of directors, who would enthusiastically express their authority in our group conscience. Second, our primary purpose would be changed. The group's new primary purpose would be making a profit for our financier. Carrying the AA message to alcoholics who are suffering would no longer matter. The miracle of AA would be a distant memory, and we alcoholics would be facing our disease alone. Now I understood why the members took immediate action on our expense shortfall, out of their own pockets, without a second thought.

Many years later I still get chills when I think of that day and what it meant. My time as group treasurer brought about a humble appreciation of our Responsibility Declaration, read at the beginning of our meetings. "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."

**Group Contributions — June 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	\$85.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Mustard Seed</b>	<b>\$219.00</b>	<b>\$594.00</b>
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>\$20.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</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	St Francis	\$0.00	\$300.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$255.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$84.00	<b>Vidor</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$70.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Unconditional Love</b>	<b>\$167.00</b>	<b>\$450.00</b>
Liberty	\$0.00	\$100.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$446.00</b>	<b>\$3,611.60</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@aa-beaumont.org — Web: aa-beaumont.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 GSR meeting to get more information or call the Intergroup office @ 409-832-1107.

## Announcements

### Next District 90 GSR Meeting

August 3, 2025 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

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GSR Dist. 90 Mtg. August 10, 2025, Sunday,  
8:30am Elegante Hotel Ballroom, 2026 Convention  
Elections

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

### AI-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: [txaconvention.org](http://txaconvention.org) | Email: [info.houstontsc@gmail.com](mailto:info.houstontsc@gmail.com)

GSRs please mark the date August 10, 2025, Sunday, 8:30am, Elegante Hotel Ballroom.  
 There is a District 90 meeting for the 2026 District 90 convention elections.  
**PLEASE ATTEND**



## 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>Pre-Registration</th> <th>Amt. Enclosed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> AA @ \$15.00 Each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon @ \$15.00 Each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Alateen @ \$ 3.00 Each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Donation</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b></td> <td>\$ _____</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>	\$ _____	<p><b>Make Checks Payable To And</b></p> <p><b>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>
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<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
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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 July !!!

July 2025 | AA Celebrates 90 Wonderful Years! | In Every Issue  
**At Wit's End**

### Oops, we forgot to tell you

In the announcement portion of his AA meeting a member told his group about the recent passing of another sober member stating, "Doug has now joined the big meeting in the sky."

Upon hearing this, a newcomer blurted out, "You mean we have to keep going to meetings after we die too?!"

*Andy T.*

*Lenexa,*

*Kan..*

### Rigorous Honesty

I told my home group I had been talking with God lately. I said that he admonished me, saying that as an elder senior member, I was too egotistically self-absorbed and far too hypercritical of others. He added that I should become a humbler steward, work harder with others and take a deep inventory of my actions and attitudes.

When I was finished sharing, my home group members offered this unanimous response: "Thank God, our prayers have been answered!"

*Jose N.*

*Portland, Ore.*

### Easy does it

One night I went out to dinner with my family. The waiter came by and began taking our drink orders. All but one minor ordered an alcoholic beverage.

When the waiter got to me, I asked for a virgin Bloody Mary. He looked at me and said with a smirk on his face, "What are we gonna do, pretend to get drunk?"

"Yes," I replied, "and then I'm gonna pretend to give you a tip." The look on his face was priceless.

*Dave H.*

*Plantation, Fla..*

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org



### 12 STEPS AND 12 TRADITIONS Step Seven page 76

The chief activator of our defects has been self-centered fear—primarily fear that we would lose something we already possessed or would fail to get something we demanded. Living upon a basis of unsatisfied demands, we were in a state of continual disturbance and frustration. Therefore, no peace was to be had unless we could find a means of reducing these demands. The difference between a demand and a simple request is plain to anyone.

The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God. The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. It is really saying to us that we now ought to be willing to try humility in seeking the removal of our other shortcomings just as we did when we admitted that we were powerless over alcohol, and came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have.



**We are not a  
glum lot.**