

Step 8

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”

“Steps Eight and Nine are concerned with personal relations. First, we take a look backward and try to discover where we have been at fault; next we make a vigorous attempt to repair the damage we have done; and third, having thus cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our new-found knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.

This is a very large order. It is a task which we may perform with increasing skill, but never really finish. Learning how to live in the greatest peace, partnership, and brotherhood with all men and

women, of whatever description, is a moving and fascinating adventure. Every A.A. has found that he can make little headway in this new adventure of living until he first backtracks and really makes an accurate and unsparing survey of the human wreckage he has left in his wake. To a degree, he has already done this when taking moral inventory, but now the time has come when he ought to redouble his efforts to see how many people he has hurt, and in what ways. This reopening of emotional wounds, some old, some perhaps forgotten, and some still painfully festering, will at first look like a purposeless and pointless piece of surgery. But

if a willing start is made, then the great advantages of doing this will so quickly reveal themselves that the pain will be lessened as one obstacle after another melts away.

These obstacles, however, are very real. The first, and one of the most difficult, has to do with forgiveness. The moment we ponder a twisted or broken relationship with another person, our emotions go on the defensive.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 77-78

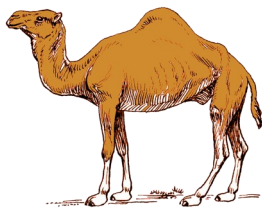
Tradition 8 Long Form

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.”

“ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS will never have a professional class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words, “Freely ye have received, freely give.” we have discovered that at the point of professionalism, money and spirituality do not mix. Almost no recovery from alcoholism has ever been brought about by the world’s best professionals, whether medical or religious. We do not decry professionalism in other fields, but we accept the sober fact that it does not work for us. Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same: Our single purpose has been defeated.

Alcoholics simply will not listen to a paid twelfth-stepper. Almost from the beginning, we have been positive that face-to-face work with the alcoholic who suffers could be based only on the desire to help and be helped. When an A.A. talks for money, whether at a meeting or to a single newcomer, it can have a very bad effect on him, too. The money motive compromised him and everything he says and does for his prospect. This has always been so obvious that only a very few A.A.’s have ever worked the Twelfth Step for a fee.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 166



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 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.

Concept VIII

“The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 31 of the Concepts Section

“Since our Trustees bear the primary responsibility for the good conduct of all our world service affairs, this discussion deals with the basic concepts and methods by which they can best discharge their heavy obligations. Long experience has not proved that our Board as a whole must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger and more serious questions of policy, finance, group relations, public relations and leadership that constantly confront it. In *these more critical matters*, the Board must of course function with great care and deliberation. Here the Board is expected skillfully to *plan, manage, and execute*.

It follows, therefore, that the close attention of the Board to such larger problems must not be subject to constant distraction and interference. Our Trustees, as a body, cannot be burdened with a mass of lesser matters; they must not concern themselves with the endless questions and difficulties which arise daily, weekly and monthly in the routine conduct of the World Service Office and of our publishing enterprises. In these areas the Board cannot possibly manage and conduct in detail; it must delegate its executive function.

Here the Board’s attitude has to be that of custodial oversight; it cannot be the executive. Hence the Trustees are the guarantors of the good management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. They discharge their custodial obligation by electing the directors of these services, a part of whom must always be Trustees.”

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 31 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order

August 2025 | Atheist & Agnostic Members | Featured Section

From Your Heart to Mine

By: Jason D. | Lake Charles, Louisiana

Listening to one another's Higher Power through sharing is one of his biggest joys in AA

As I sit here and type this, I can't help but smile. I am an atheist who works the program of AA. The idea of God has never troubled me, but the views and actions of many of its followers do. My personal belief is that humans are here by accident, and because we are of intelligent design we seek to find purpose in life. What is that purpose? I don't know. The idea of living to die seems meaningless to me.

I know people who have gone to church and become lit up with the idea of God leading their lives, and I'm happy for them. It's not for me, but I do know we can learn good things from religious people. The Big Book states that clearly. "Be quick to see where religious people are right." I have met a few guys who have thrown that phrase in my face, but it does not say they are right. It says *see where they are right. The biggest challenges I have are people shunning me for my belief. I don't think their ideas are silly. It is just not for me.*

One of my biggest joys of the AA program is sharing God in a meeting of my peers. I listen to everyone's Higher Power speak through their hearts to me. Just as when I share, my Higher Power speaks to them. The people who accept me are the members who matter most to me. We do not argue, but instead discuss what we can do for each other. And that to me is being willing to grow along spiritual lines.

I love that AA let me pick my God—as I understand him—to work this program and practice these principles in all my affairs. If this were a religious program, I would have never tried it. I'm grateful for the members with whom I've become friends, the ones I might become friends with, the ones I will never be friends with and the ones who will never give me a chance. My only ask is, "How can I help you?" And I pray that when I need a hand, someone will be willing to help me. Thanks for listening. I'm not a writer, so I hope this makes sense. Have a great day.

Group Contributions — July 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	\$200.00	\$200.00
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	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$594.00
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	\$120.00
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	\$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	Vidor	\$12.00	\$52.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$70.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$450.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$100.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$212.00	\$3,823.60

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@aaabeaumont.org — Web: aaabeaumont.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 September 7, 2025

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting October 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

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

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



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

<u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u>	MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
<p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Sollen M. - Galena Park TX</p> <p>Fri. 10:00 PM AA Adam P. - Broaddus TX</p> <p>Sat. 08:30 AM AFG Four Faces of Al-Anon</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 AM AA Joe Mc. - Galveston TX</p> <p>Sat. 04:00 PM AA Laura S. - Austin TX</p> <p>Sat. 08:00 PM AA Chris R. - Ingram TX</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 PM Dance</p> <p>Sun. 10:00 AM AA Iron Mike - Baycliff TX</p> <p style="text-align: center;">****Schedule and Speakers Subject to Change. ****</p>	<p>2355 I-10 Access Rd SOUTH (GPS) 1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705 409-842-3600</p> <p>ROOM RATES - \$104 PER NIGHT / \$134 SUITE PER NIGHT / \$144 CABANA BALCONY VIEW EARLY DEADLINE July 15, 2025</p>
	<p>ONSITE REGISTRATION</p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 15, (AA/Al-Anon \$15, Al-Ateen \$3) Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 9th, 2025 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 20 ea. Alateen: \$ 5 ea. Dance only: \$ 5 ea. Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</p> <p>Dance admission included with convention registration ** Dance only** tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night</p>

Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Door Prizes... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social

WE STRIVE TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING—PLEASE DONATE TO THE COFFEE AND HOSPITALITY SUITE/CONTRIBUTION CANS

Note: The city of Beaumont has a smoke free ordinance. Outdoor smoking areas will be designated to accommodate our smoking guest

<p>Name 1 : _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen¹</p> <p><small>Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need</small></p>	<p>Name 2: _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen¹</p> <p><small>Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need</small></p>												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Pre-Registration:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Amt. Enclosed:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } AA @ \$ 15.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Sponsorship Donation</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">TOTAL ENCLOSED</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </table> <p>Alateens must have signed permission slips!</p>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____	<p>Make Checks Payable To And Mail Registration Forms To:</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:												
{ } AA @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 15.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____												

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 August!!!

August 2025 | In Every Issue

At Wit's End

Going downhill fast

On a trip out west, a couple of drunks attempted to ski down on a black diamond.

Problem was, it was summer.

*Denise D.
Apex, N.C.*

Just keep walking

A sign on the window of a liquor store says: THE WONDERS OF WINE.

A drunk walks by and looks in the window and thinks:

I wonder why I can't meet any nice girls.

I wonder where my paycheck goes.

I wonder why my boss is always fussing about layoffs.

I wonder where I left my truck last night.

I wonder why all my mail says, "Final Notice."

I wonder if those AA meetings really work.

*Melvin S.
Singapore*

A crow walks into a bar

Before the crowbar was invented, crows had to drink at home.

*Annette C.
Pittsburgh Pa.*

No time to sleep

A drunk was vacationing in Las Vegas when he bumped into an old drinking pal. "Where are you staying?" asked the sober one. "We should have dinner together." "Heck," said the wet one, "I'm not staying at a hotel. I'm only here for the weekend!"

*Jeff A.
Seaside, Ore.
editorinchief@aagrapevine.org*

12 Steps and 12 Traditions

STEP 8, page 80

While the purpose of making restitution to others is paramount, it is equally necessary that we extricate from an examination of our persona relations every bit of information about ourselves and our fundamental difficulties that we can. Since defective relations with other human beings have nearly always been the immediate cause of our woes, including our alcoholism, no field of investigation could yield more satisfying and valuable rewards than this one. Calm, thoughtful reflection upon personal relations can deepen our insight. We can go far beyond those things which were superficially wrong with us, to see those flaws which were basic, flaws which sometimes were responsible for the whole pattern of our lives thoroughness, we have found, will pay—and pay handsomely.

We might next ask ourselves what we mean when we say that we have "harmed" other people. What kinds of "harm" do people do one another, anyway? To define the word "harm" in a practical way, we might call it the result of instincts in collision, which cause physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual damage to people. If our tempers are consistently bad, we arouse anger in others. If we lie or cheat we deprive other not only of their worldly goods, but of their emotional security and peace of mind. We really issue them an invitation to become contemptuous and vengeful. If our sex conduct is selfish, we may excite jealousy, misery, and a strong desire to retaliate in kind.



**We are not a
glum lot.**

Ninth District Intergroup Association
4224 College St
Beaumont, TX 77707
steppingstones@abeaumont.org
Phone: 409-832-1107
Website: aabeaumont.org

«Field1» «Field2»«Field8»
«Field3»
«Field7»«Field4» «Field5» «Field6»

**MAIL,OR EMAIL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS,
GROUP NEWS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS TO THE
NINTH DISTRICT INTERGROUP**