Ninth District Intergroup Volume 15, Issue 1 January 2026

Stepping Stones

Step 1

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable."

Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. Every natural instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us.

No other kind of bankruptcy is like this one. Alcohol, now becomes the rapacious creditor, bleeds us of all self-sufficiency and all will to resist its demands. Once this stark fact is accepted, our bankruptcy as going human concerns is complete.

But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built.

We know that little good can come to any alcoholic who joins A.A. unless he has first accepted his devastating weakness and all its consequences. Until he so humbles himself; his sobriety—if any—will be precarious. Of real happiness he will find none at all. Proved beyond doubt by an immense experience, this is one of the facts of A.A. life.

This principle that we shall find no enduring strength until we first admit complete defeat is the main taproot from which our whole Society has sprung and flowered.

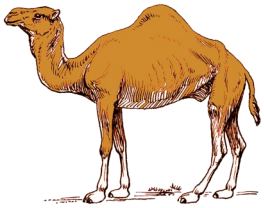
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 21– 22

Tradition 1 Long Form

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare should come first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."

The unity of Alcoholics Anonymous is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. We stay whole, or A.A. dies. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God; His gift to us would be spent aimlessly. Back again in their caves, alcoholics would reproach us and say, "What a great thing A.A. might have been! " Does this mean some will anxiously ask, "that in A.A. the individual doesn't count for much? Is he to be dominated by his group and swallowed up in it?

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 129



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.

Inside this issue:

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.

Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc. and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc.

Contributions from our readers is encouraged. Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected.

Email your experience to:

steppingstones@aabeaumont.org

Concept I

"The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship."

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 4 of the Concepts Section

The A.A. groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services — those special elements of over-all service activity which make it possible for our Society to function as a whole. The groups assumed that responsibility at the St. Louis International Convention of 1955. There, on behalf, of Dr. Bob, the Trustees and A.A.'s old-time leaders, I made the transfer of world service responsibility to our entire Fellowship.

Why, and by what authority was this done? There were reasons of stark necessity for it, and there were further reasons which have to do with A.A.'s fundamental structure and tradition.

By the year 1948 our necessities had become clear enough. Ten years earlier—in 1938—helped by dedicated friends, Dr. Bob and I had commenced work upon a world service structure. Our first step was the creation of a trusteeship for A.A. as a whole. We called this body the Alcoholic Foundation; and in 1954 it was renamed The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

This trusteeship was designed to inaugurate and maintain all of those special services for A.A. as a whole that could not well be performed by single groups or areas. We envisioned the writing of a uniform A.A. literature, the development of a sound public relations policy, and a means of handling the large numbers of pleas for help that might follow in the wake of national and international publicity. We thought in terms of aiding new groups to form and of furnishing them with counsel based upon the experience of the older and already successful groups. We thought there would be a need for a monthly magazine and also for translations of our literature into other languages.

By 1950 nearly all of these dreams for world service had come true. In the dozen years following the creation of The Foundation, A.A. membership had jumped from 50 to 100,000. The A.A. Traditions had been written and adopted. A confident unity had pretty much replaced fear and doubt an strife. Our services had unquestionably played a large and critical role in this unfoldment. World service, therefore, had taken on crucial meaning for A.A.'s future. If these vital agencies were to collapse or bog down, our unity within and the carrying of our message to innumerable alcoholics without, would suffer serious and perhaps irreparable damage. Under all conditions and at any sacrifice, we would have to sustain those services and the flow of life blood that they were pumping into the world arteries of our Fellowship. Among the A.A. groups it had been proven that we could survive great strain and stress. But could we stand heart failure at our world center?

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 4 of the Concepts Section

AA GRAPEVINE

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

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order

January 2026

15 minutes

By: Kim P. | Redway, California

This newcomer was desperate to stop drinking, but days and hours were too much to handle

At the end of the meeting, they read the Promises. "We think not," they all said in unison, like some kind of nutty liturgy. In fact, I knew these things were extravagant. The same way I knew so many other things. I knew I was wasting my time.

I also knew the people chanting those words in this ugly cramped room were a little goofy in the head. I also knew I wouldn't stop drinking. I am not a cute drinker. I'm not a fun drunk. I might have started out like that, long ago in a galaxy far, far away. But not anymore. I rode alcohol to the end of the line.

My mornings involved me standing over the bathroom sink with a glass of tequila in my hand, salivating excessively until I forced the first swallow down, only to immediately vomit it back up. I would stand there drooling and sweating, repeating the process until I could keep one down. Then it was just a matter of staying in a blacked-out state of intermittent consciousness until my blood alcohol level would drop and my body, in self-defense, would attempt to reject it once again. I knew I was dying.

I had given up a job, a husband, all friendships and everything else that made being alive tolerable. My children and family would be better off without me, right?

I knew where AA was in my small town. I would drive past the little hall with its peeling signage on my way to the liquor store. I gave sidelong glances at the smokers loitering outside every evening. Sometimes I even parked across the street, watching in my rearview mirror as they hugged and laughed, happily chatting among themselves before stubbing out their smokes and moving inside like large children at the end of recess.

After everyone went in I would go to the liquor store and buy two or three fifths, telling myself that I would use these bottles to taper off. Instead, I would pass out with a lit cigarette and wake up to it burning through my bathrobe, scarring my neck.

Once I woke with a chipped front tooth and spent days running my tongue over the sharp edge trying to find an equally sharp edge in my brain that could tell me how it happened. Those edges bothered me. The edges of conversations I could find evidence of, like the long minutes logged in my cell phone history. The demarcation lines of bruises, scrapes and wounds, a map of injuries I couldn't recall. Groping the floor for a bottle, seeing it less than half full. Waiting with fear to see if it was getting lighter or darker outside. This was how my story was ending. The same day lasting for weeks and months.

I felt I didn't deserve a second chance. I did nothing to earn it. But then it happened, what I now believe was my first gift of grace. That day I went into a store to get cigarettes and tequila, and a woman who's a member of AA walked in behind me. I knew her. She knew me. We engaged in the obligatory smiles and small talk. She asked what I was up to, and I told her I was just grabbing some cigarettes. I asked what she was doing, even though I knew she had to be on her way to the hall. She said, "Going to a meeting," then tilted her head in a funny little way that I've since come to love. She smiled all the way to the deep end and then said, "You wanna come?" And I said, "Yes." *I said, "Yes!" I didn't get a bottle. Instead, I followed that woman into that room full of people.*

I was so sick. And they were all laughing too loud. I sat there and picked at the ugly contact paper covering the table in front of me. I think I even cried. I went home.

Later at the house my whole being started saying, Get a bottle! I'm dying. You can stop tomorrow! But somehow I told myself that if it still hurt this bad in 15 minutes, I'd go to the liquor store. I lived 15 minutes at a time until the next meeting. I don't know why, but that's what I did.

I knew that I was going to die or stop drinking and I didn't really care which one of those two things happened. But the next day at the meeting they said, "Keep coming back." And I said, "Yes." Fifteen minutes. Fifteen minutes. Fifteen minutes. They said, "Read this book." And I said, "Yes."
Fifteen minutes. Fifteen minutes. They said, "Get a sponsor." I said, "Fine, but I don't need one!"

Soon those 15 minutes became days, months, years. I have earned my place at this table. I know the words to the Ninth Step Promises by heart now. "We will be amazed before we are halfway through ..." Are these extravagant promises? We think not.

My dictionary says extravagant means "beyond any reasonable expectation." My life now really is "beyond any reasonable expectation." It was a 15-minute gift of grace. The rooms, the Steps—and saying the word "Yes."

Group Contributions — December, 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	$200.00
Any Lengths	$0.00	$800.00	Mid County	$0.00	$115.00
Anahuac	$0.00	$100.00	Murray Street	$0.00	$0.00
Bolivar	$0.00	$0.00	**Mustard Seed**	**$340.75**	**$934.75**
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**	**$40.00**	**$240.00**
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	$2,040.00
Jasper Noon	$0.00	$513.60	**St Francis**	**$300.00**	**$900.00**
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	$179.04	Vidor	$0.00	$52.00
Kountze Daylight	$0.00	$0.00	West End	$0.00	$70.00
Lewis Drive	$0.00	$0.00	**Unconditional Love**	**$184.00**	**$770.00**
Liberty	$0.00	$200.00	Way Out	$0.00	$0.00
Lifeline	$0.00	$0.00	**Totals**	**$864.75**	**$7,369.39**

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@aabeaumont.org — Web: aabeaumont.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
February 1, 2026 At 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX
2026 Convention Mtg. right after the District Mtg. est. 3:30 PM
Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting
January 18, 2026 At 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

INTERGROUP HAS NEW HOURS

WE WILL BE OPEN EVERY 3RD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
10am to 3pm

STARTING JANUARY 17, 2026

Name 1:_____
Email: _____
Address:_____
City, State, Zip:_____
Badge Name:_____
Home Group:_____
Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen

Name 2:_____
Email: _____
Address:_____
City, State, Zip:_____
Badge Name:_____
Home Group:_____
Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen

Ticket Prices - In amount, please include coffee, lunch, contributions, and scholarships.
AA $30 _____
Alateen $5 _____
Alanon $30 _____
Coffee $5 _____
Saturday Lunch Nacho Bar $15 _____
Contributions $ _____
Scholarships $_____

Make checks payable to:
SETX Area Assembly of AA
SETA
PO Box 983 Silsbee TX 77656

INTERGROUP WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE EVERONE CELEBRATING IN JANUARY!!!

****

Ham on Wry

January 2000

By: Jim G.

A WOMAN APPROACHED HER SPONSOR and asked, "What do I do when I finish with the Steps?

And the sponsor said, "Lie very, very still--because you'r dead."

By: David M. | Homer, Alaska

AN OLD-TIMER WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE the new-comer. "That light at the end of the tunnel," he said, "may be you."

January 2001

By: Doug R. | Manhattan, New York

A TRUE STORY: One night, a newcomer took his daughter to dinner at a downtown restaurant. As they walked in the door, the first thing they saw was an enormous sign advertising what used to be his favorite beer. The man's eyes immediately widened and he began remembering just how good the old brew tasted. Then his daughter interrupted.

"Oh, look, Daddy," she said, pointing to the sign. "They have Your-Life's-in-the-Toilet on tap."

By: Dave S.

YOU'RE PROBABLY AN ALCOHOLIC if you spell Alcohol with a capital letter out of respect.

HEARD AT MEETINGS:

By Dan D. | Yakima, Washington

Many of us discount the prayers we've said in the morning over the shimmering waters of the porcelain altar. I think God answers them.

By: Ed H. | Manhattan, New York

HEARD AT MEETINGS:

Beauty and truth are admired; pain is obeyed.

editorinchief@aagrapevine.org

As Bill Sees It

118

Prelude to the Program

Few people will sincerely try to practice the A.A. program unless they have "hit bottom," for practicing A.A.'s Steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking. The average alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, doesn't care for this prospect—unless has to do these things in order to stay alive himself.

<<<<<>>>>>

We know that the newcomer has to "hit bottom"; other-wise, not much can happen. Because we are drunks who understand him, we can us at depth the nutcracker of the-obsession-plus-the allergy as a tool of such power that it can shatter his ego. Only thus can he be convinced that on his own unaided resources he has little or no chance.

TWELVE AND TWELVE, P. 24

A.A. TODAY, P. 8

242

Let Go Absolutely

After failure on my part to dry up any drunks, Dr. Silk-worth reminded me of Professor William James's obser-vation that truly transforming spiritual experiences are nearly always founded on calamity and collapse. "Stop preaching at them," Dr. Silkworth said, "and give them the hard medical facts first. This may soften them up at depth so that they will be willing to do anything to get well. Then they may accept those spiritual ideas of yours, and even a Higher Power.

<<<<<>>>>>

We beg of you to be fearless and thorough from the very start. Some of us have tried to hold on to our old ideas, and the result was nil—until we let go absolutely.

A.A. COMES OF AGE, P. 13

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, P. 58

WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT

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

«Field1» «Field2»
«Field3»
«Field4», «Field5» «Field6»

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