

# Michigan City Daily Reprieve

## Step 9

**M**ade direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others. TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 83

When I survey my drinking days, I recall many people whom my life touched casually, but whose days I troubled through my anger and sarcasm. These people are untraceable, and direct amends to them are not possible. The only amends I can make to those untraceable individuals, the only "changes for the better" I can offer, are indirect amends made to other people, whose paths briefly cross mine. Courtesy and kindness, regularly practiced, help me to live in emotional balance, at peace with myself.

DAILY REFLECTIONS p 257

## Concept IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. Must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## Tradition 9

*"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."*

Each A.A. Group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. Contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. Are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

## "The Ninth Promise"

Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.



## CRITICAL & URGENT NEED!

Backup volunteers needed to answer cell phone - daytime and after-hour calls.

For further information contact your group GSR or come to the next Area District Meeting

**Volunteers needed  
for Indiana State  
Prison Meetings**

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Bob G	9/1/2009	2 years
Chris A	9/6/2000	11 years
Barb K	9/11/1990	21 years
Dan M	9/12/1991	20 years
Phil F	9/29/2004	7 years

**Happy Birthday to All!**

To publish announcements of AA Birthdays celebrated by members each month, send name and number of years to: District 21, P.O. Box 58, Michigan City, IN 46360 or email to [district21mc@comcast.net](mailto:district21mc@comcast.net)

Our Local Area District 21 Business Meeting

and the Public Information Meeting - 7 PM

on the 2nd Thursday of every month

at the Michigan City Christian

Church at 11232 W. Earl Rd.

**Next meeting: September 8, 2011**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

## The Traditions Checklist

### *Tradition Nine*

A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

1. Do I still try to boss things in A.A.?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA. Because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the A.A. Program-even if no one makes me do so-with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any A.A. Job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any A.A. Job?
6. Why doesn't every A.A. Group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an A.A. Job gracefully-and profit thereby-when the time comes?
8. What has totation to do with anonymity? With humility?

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## New Meeting

7:00 to 8:30 P.M.

**Saturday Night Special**

**Open A. A. Meeting**

Last Saturday of the month is a Speaker Meeting

Long Beach Community Center

# Step Nine

*Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*

A common mistake by many new comers is to take this step prematurely. It is certainly understandable that a new, serious member to AA would want to make apologies to those he has harmed as soon as possible. Yet it is advisable that one waits for the appropriate time and takes the steps in order.

How many times have we awoken the next morning and promised ourselves and others that would be our last night out? “I’ll never drink again.” It is almost comical. But this time, with a little time under our belts, we are sure we are done forever and eager to make good with those we have harmed. This, however, can be a selfish act although the intent may not be so. It’s like having a house full of garbage. We clean it up and want to be rid of it. We take it to the curb and leave it there, but trash day is not until later in the week so our neighbors are stuck looking at it. The Big Book tells a story of a farmhouse being hit by a tornado. When the storm is over and the property is in shambles the alcoholic comes out from his shelter and says, “Boy, I’m glad that’s over.” Not noticing what a mess has been made.

The steps are in order for a reason. I am not ready for step nine until I am willing to clean up only my side of the street. Not to say, “I’m sorry for this, but I would not have done this if you hadn’t done that.” I am to keep praying to clean up only my side of the street, until that willingness comes.

This step effectively cleans away blockages from the Spirit. It is more than just an apology. If we owe money, we pay the money back. It is very important that we talk with our sponsor before action is taken especially if there is a serious threat that may affect our lives or others. We often hear that this is a selfish program. This step is needed for us to get on the right track.

# How the Fellowship of AA and the 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition Helps Me to Overcome Two Common Alcoholic Character Defects: Selfishness & Defiance

By being a fellowship and not having a strong central authority Alcoholics Anonymous addresses two common negative characteristics of the untreated Alcoholic Personality, selfishness and defiance.

The terms often used to describe a fellowship, companionship, camaraderie, and friendship, are everywhere in AA. The companionship is seen in any AA group where people are visiting before and after the meeting. Of course when we burst into merriment about a typical outlandish alcoholic episode which normal people would consider tragic, camaraderie extends itself to all of us as the laughter helps heal the tragic past. I don't think I'm unusual where although there are people whom I have known longer than my friends in AA, the longest standing active friendships in my address book come from Alcoholics Anonymous. Practicing the fundamentals of fellowship, begin my growth from the character defects of selfishness and self centeredness which I must overcome to have a truly fulfilling life.

The spirit of giving, another fundamental principle of AA, also helps me overcome the selfishness and self centeredness I'm trying to leave behind. We are told, you have to give it away in order to keep it, and the universal spirit of giving, more than anything, helps me grow out of the selfishness and self centeredness the Big Book tells me is my primary problem.

Organizing a central committee of the groups or a local District Committee is how the Fellowship combines our individual efforts to carry the AA message to those who would not ordinarily hear it.

Defiance is another troublesome characteristic of untreated Alcoholism. The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous avoids but makes us aware of our defiance by not having a central authority. The 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition states, "AA as such should never be organized." Since we aren't organized, there cannot be a general corporation or chain of command. The 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition goes on to say we can have committees directly responsible to those we serve, but the authority to govern comes from those they serve, not from a chain of command.

The General Service Office or sometimes a local General Service Delegate may offer a suggestion to a group or an individual who may be perceived to be out of line, however they never issue orders. AA does not issue charters or have lengthy requirements to be considered a group either other than what are generally suggested guidelines appearing elsewhere in the Traditions

As a defiant recovering alcoholic I should remember I don't like to be told what to do and other people don't like it either. I need to remember, it's not what we say, but how we say it. So often, hurt feelings can be avoided with the proper tone of voice. I need to be careful about how I say it.

Thank-you God for AA, the Steps and the Traditions which help me grow into a better person, more in the likeness of You, to bring others and myself more happiness during my time here on earth.