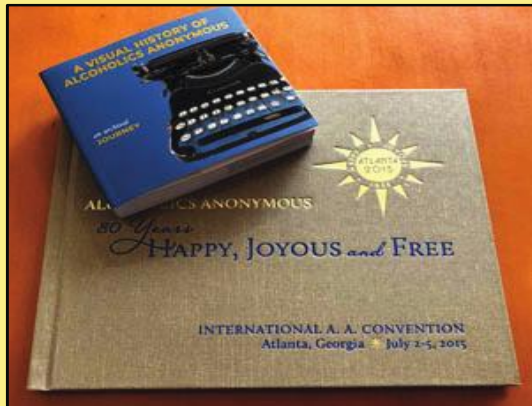


SUGGESTED 25¢ DONATION



# THE WESTWORD

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE CALGARY INTERGROUP OF AA

To receive a digital copy of the WestWord please email: [westwordeditor@gmail.com](mailto:westwordeditor@gmail.com)**Price reduced !**

**International Convention books  
Atlanta 2015 & Detroit 2020  
\$12.00 each**

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS**

**Mon–Fri, 8:30am–5:00pm**  
(Closed 1-2pm for lunch)

**Saturdays 9:00am–1:00pm**

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

**National Day for Truth  
and Reconciliation**

**Sat. Sept.30 + Mon. Oct.2, 2023**

**Thanksgiving**

**Sat. Oct.7 + Mon. Oct.9, 2023**

**AA Central Service Office  
4021 – 4 St. S.E.**

**Calgary, Alberta T2G 2W4**

**[centraloffice@calgaryaa.org](mailto:centraloffice@calgaryaa.org)**

**[www.calgaryaa.org](http://www.calgaryaa.org)**

**Big Book  
Studies**

**Fellowship  
Events**

**Our Service  
Committees  
need YOU!**

## Pioneers Dinner 2023

October 14TH  
1:00–7:00 PM  
Tickets: \$35  
Available through Intergroup Rep.  
or Central Office



**Save the Date**



Scan the QR code to purchase tickets

**Speakers and Panelists**  
Verona S. – AA  
Jim S. – AA  
Joanne G. – AA  
Dan A. – AA  
AL S. – AA  
Maryon K. – AL-Anon

**Dalhousie Community Church  
5511 Baroc RD NW Calgary**

IN THE SPIRIT OF TRADITION 6 AA IS NOT ALLIED WITH ANY SECT, DENOMINATION,  
POLITICS, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION.

**INTERGROUP CONTACTS:**

Intergroup Chairperson	cgigchair@gmail.com	Intergroup Alternate Chair	cgigalterchair@gmail.com
Intergroup Archives Chair	cgigarchives@gmail.com	Telephone Monitoring Chair	telmonitor.calgary@gmail.com
Public Information Chair	pichair.calgary@gmail.com	12 Step Chair List	cgig12steplist@gmail.com
Westword Editor	westwordeditor@gmail.com	Intergroup Secretary	cgigsecretary@gmail.com
Calgary Central Office	centraloffice@calgaryaa.org	Intergroup Treasurer	cgigtreasurer@gmail.com
Banff Roundup Chair	cgigbanffchr@gmail.com	Intergroup Special Events	specevents@gmail.com
Sunday AM Breakfast Chair	cgigbrkfst@gmail.com	Intergroup/CGSC Liaison	cgscintergroup@gmail.com

**CGSC CONTACTS:**

Chairperson	cgsccchair@gmail.com	Alternate Chairperson	cgsccaltchair@gmail.com
Treasurer	cgsctreasurer@gmail.com	Secretary	cgsccsecretary@gmail.com
Treatment Chair	cgsctreatment@gmail.com	Corrections Chair	cgsccorrections@gmail.com
C.P.C. Chair	cgsccpc@gmail.com	Grapevine Chair	cgsccgrapevine@gmail.com
Records & Registration Chair	cgsccrecords@gmail.com	Intro to Service Chair	cgsccintro@gmail.com
Bridging the Gap Chair	cgsccbtg@gmail.com	Intergroup/CGSC Liaison	cgsccintergroup@gmail.com

**MEETING INFO & CHANGES:****NEW MEETINGS / BOOK STUDIES:**

**\*\*\*New Beginnings Big Book** – Held at New Beginnings, 3216 – 380 Canyon Meadows Dr, Fish Creek Village-2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Starting September 18. 6:30- 8:00pm. By Mary S. and Steve M. – See poster p. 7

**\*\*\*Daily Reflections Traditions Study** - Scarboro United Church, Every Sunday starting September 24 – Nov 12 from 2 – 4pm. Hosts are David L. and Nicole S. – See poster p. 7

**\*\*\*Recovery Group Big Book** - We are going to host a Big Book study, The Joe & Charlie way, starting on Tuesday 03 October 2023. It will be approx 12 weeks in duration, running every Tuesday night, 730pm to 9pm, at Recovery Group, 114 - 5211 Macleod Trail South, Calgary. Unfortunately, it is not handicap accessible, up stairs, no elevator. Hosts will Chris H and Laurence M, For info call or text Chris @ 403.860.5313.

**MEETING CHANGES:**

**\*272 Group Location Change:** After 30 plus years at North Minster United Church due to the building selling, we are moving. We will be meeting at Thornhill Baptist Church 128 Tache Ave NW.

**\*272 Group Meeting Change:** Our Step and Tradition meeting will continue to be held on Mondays at 7:30pm, our Friday speaker meeting has been moved to a Thursday Speaker meeting starting at 8pm.

**\*Oldtimer Group Meeting Format Change:** We are removing the 25-year requirement to share. This is a closed big book, topic meeting.




**\*New Beginnings Meeting Change** - made a change to their Saturday afternoon 2:00 pm ladies meditation meeting. Starting September 1, it will be moved to Noon.

**MEETING INFO / SUPPORT:**

**NEEDS SUPPORT – “Getting There Group”** - We are a Step and discussion group and meet every Tuesday at 8:00pm, 2828- 19th Street NW{ Holy Cross Anglican Church}.

**CHANGE: Garnet Block - Saturday Ladies Meeting** time change:  
SATURDAY from (old time) 1:30pm-2:30pm to (new time) 12:00pm-1:00pm



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS						SEPTEMBER	
272		Regal		New Beginnings		272	
Gary L	33 years	Chris D	2 years	Whitney S	1 year	Jim A	6 years
ABC Group		Brad I	9 years	Ivonne T	3 years	Tom M	12 years
Mike C	1 year	Jim M	24 years	Marcie	6 years	ABC Group	
Lib B	36 years	Wed. Eye Opener		Tonya D	7 years	Bruce M	6 years
Awakenings		Orland W	37 years	Betty N	8 years	Thomas M	14 years
Ryan G	10 years	Whitesheep		Jarrett H	10 years	Back to the Book	
Mike K	10 years	Phil L	22 years	Janine H	11 years	Darren L	1 year
Bob J	36 years	Back to the Book		Randy S	12 years	Barbara L	3 years
Back from Hell		Elisabeth O	24 years	Don M	18 years	Shannon A	12 years
Danielle F	2 years	Deer Ridge		Lise	23 years	Shandi P	16 years
Valeria C	9 years	Blake B	1 year	Recovery Group		Wayne D	45 years
Beautiful Hope Women's		David P	1 year	Shay	3 years	Chinook Group	
Colleen	26 years	Chad L	8 years	Jade S	3 years	Grace P	38 years
Nadine	44 years	Gord D	15 years	Farrah	4 years	Just for Today	
Deer Ridge Group		Haddon Road		Nicole W.	7 years	Peter L	8 years
Blake B	1 year	Chase	1 year	Robert P	13 years	JC A	19 years
David P	1 year	Tannis	1 year	Unity Group		MAAT	
Chad L	8 years	Jamie	1 year	Madisson B	1 year	Mike M	2 years
Gord D	15 years	Kim N	9 years	Chris B	2 years	Troy C	4 years
Edgemont		Krista V	10 years			James S	7 years
Hayley S	1 year	Wesley F	13 years			Ed H	12 years
Mike R	2 years	Greg S	21 years			NADZIEJA	
Harry C	9 years	Dick W	55 years			Sasza B	1 year
Kincora		Garnet				Hieronim D	33 years
Glen H	2 years	Chris M	1 year			Tadeusz L	40 years
Melissa M	4 years	Mike B	1 year			New Life Group	
MAAT		Ladine	2 years			Erin	3 years
Doug B	3 years	Austin	2 years			Ogden	
Marshall M	41 years	Kelsey	2 years			Mike H	10 years
Reid M	53 years	Ron H	2 years		Veronica D	11 years	
Midnapore		Stephan	2 years			Austin Mck	16 years
Kim B	5 years	Damene	2 years			Lawrence M	23 years
Lynda W	5 years	Audra	3 years			Regal	
Matt B	7 years	Jade	3 years			Logan C	1 year
Rolan M	13 years	Vince F	8 years			Amarbir R	2 years
Alice M	49 years	Courtney	8 years			Thursday Night Ladies	
New Life Group		Si W	9 years			Kristina T	3 years
Stephanie	1 year	Noel C	25 years			Unity Group	
Reid M	53 years	Josh G	26 years			Brendan H	1 year
Ogden		Robbie G	37 years			West End Step and Trad	
Levi A	2 years	Homeward Bounders				Xanti A	1 year
Stacy G	7 years	Rob C	8 years			Zoom into the Room	
Jim K	15 years	Rick R	10 years			Kaitlyn	1 year
Mary S-J	21 years	Kenny N	20 years			Yvonne	20 years
Karol K	47 years						

## UPCOMING EVENTS & COMMITMENTS

DATE	EVENT	Posters with details
Sept 9	Intro to Service Seminar	Page 6
Sept 24	Daily Reflections - Monthly Slow Pitch	Page 7
Sept 30	Garnet Block Monthly Dance	Page 7
October 14	Pioneer Dinner	Cover Page
Nov. 4	District 85: Cochrane Round-Up	Page 7
Nov. 10-12	Fellowship of the Spirit Book Study	Page 7

Treatment Facility	AA Group for September	AA Group for October
Renfrew Fridays	Ogden Group	Deer Ridge
Alpha House - Tuesday	Glenmore Group	District 75 - Travis
Alpha House - Friday	Go For It	Forest Lawn
Sunrise	NW Group	Ogden
AARC – alternate Mon	Deer Ridge Sept 18	Unity
Dream Centre	Edgemont Group	New Beginnings
Sandstone (2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday)	District 83	Val
Drop-In Centre	Walking Eagle	McKenzie

## Monthly CGSC Service Commitments

## Monthly Intergroup Service Commitments

Sunday Morning (9:30am) Ramada Breakfast Meeting	AA Group
September 3	Walking Eagle
September 10	Haddon Rd
September 17	SMOG
September 24	Ogden

Phone Monitoring Dates	AA Group
August 28 – Sept 3	Daily Reflections
Sept 4 - 10	Midnapore
Sept 11 - 17	Ogden
Sept 18 - 24	Go For It
Sept 25 – Oct 1	TBD

*Service*

*"Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs."*

*Service*



## Public Information Committee (PI committee):

\*\*\*PIC needs committed members to trial / prepare for high school and other speaking engagements for the 2023-2024 school year.

PIC membership requires attendance/interaction at at least 3 meetings including presentation of your story and recovery ideas. Sponsors please encourage your sponsees to join and participate initially as 'shadows' to learn and grow from the service work. For details contact: [getoutside@shaw.ca](mailto:getoutside@shaw.ca) or [pichair.calgary@gmail.com](mailto:pichair.calgary@gmail.com)

## COMC WANTS YOU!

Central Office Management Committee is looking for members at large to join our committee

Requirements: must have minimum 5 years sobriety

Previous Alcoholics Anonymous service experience outside of the group level, as well as experience in business such as Finance, Human Resources, Law, Business, Labour relations, Management etc.

Interest and knowledge of computers / websites is an asset!

Please drop off or email your resume to Central Office for consideration

## Bridging The Gap

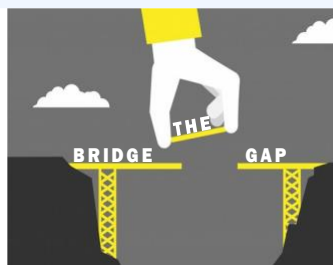
### Join a Supportive and Dynamic Team!

The Bridging the Gap Committee has **several key vacancies** available as part of the October 2023 CGSC Elections. Specifically, we are looking for a new Chairperson, Alternate Chairperson and Male Temporary Coordinator.

The Bridging the Gap Committee champions a **collaborative leadership model**, where Committee members enthusiastically **support** each other's activities and seamlessly share responsibilities across portfolios.

### The Bridging the Gap World Wide Workshop Weekend in Houston

A BTG Committee member will be attending the annual BTG Workshop Weekend in Houston on September 9-10th. He will be presenting on how the BTG program is coordinated in Calgary, and will



bring back "best practices" and program-leading innovations, from BTG Programs across North America.

### Join BTG at the Introduction to Service Seminar Sept. 9th

Finally, join several Bridging the Gap Committee Members at the upcoming Introduction to Service Seminar on September 9<sup>th</sup> at Renfrew Community Association Centre. Service is key to sobriety, and sharing the Bridging the Gap message and program at treatment/detox centres, corrections facilities, AA Round Ups and Events etc. is a wonderful way to serve.

## Doctor's Meeting Needs YOU...CPC

"The busy season for doctors meetings is coming soon and we require more reliable people to attend once a month on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm to approx. 9 pm online.

At present there are 23 people on the list who are doing a great job. Some of the upcoming meetings have 20 students and the average AA members attendance is around ten people. We could really use some help to increase these numbers."

**Please contact: Doug. (Doctors Meeting Chair)**

**403-402-6599 or [Dhilliker@shaw.ca](mailto:Dhilliker@shaw.ca)**

### Treatment Committee is looking for:

\*\*\*Alternate Chairs for treatment. Alternate chair, chair every second meeting at the Treatment Centre.

\*\*\*Secretary for Treatment.

Contact: Dave at [cgsctreatment@gmail.com](mailto:cgsctreatment@gmail.com)

**Service**

## *Book Studies, Speakers & Fellowship*



## INTRO TO SERVICE SEMINAR **SAVE THE DATE**

September 9

From 9:30 - 3 pm

Location to be determined but  
will be Central Calgary.



Will be Coffee, Donuts, and lunch provided.

Panel Presentations as follows:

- GSR's and Intergroup Rep's
  - Dcm panel
  - Committee Chairs for PI, Telephone Monitoring, Grapevine, Treatment, Corrections, Bridging the Gap
  - Table Officers: Intergroup Chair, CGSC Chair
- All panel presentations will be sharing on there Position they have, what they do, why they took it, and what it has done for them. Interactive Ice breaker Scavenger hunt with Prize to be won!!!!

You will not want to miss out learning about the service Calgary has to offer all while meeting new people, enjoying laughter, food and fun.

**Happy, Joyous, and Free.  
Tickets will be \$1.00**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

### Big Book Study

Big Book Study held at New Beginnings  
3216, 380 Canyon Meadows Drive SE  
Fish Creek Village  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Sept. 18, 2023  
Time 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Facilitated by Mary S and Steve MC  
Bring your big book and highlighters.

Enjoy and great night of teaching and  
fellowship.

Hope to see you there.

For Information email:  
SteveMonstermac13@gmail.com

### AA 12 TRADITIONS BOOK STUDY HOSTED BY: DAVID L. & NICOLE S. COME JOIN US!

**STARTS SEPT 24-NOV 12, 2023**

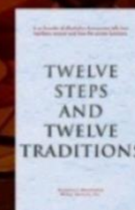
WHEN: EVERY SUNDAY

TIME: 2:00PM-4:00PM

WHERE: SCARBORO UNITED CHURCH

ADDRESS: 134 SCARBORO AVENUE (UPSTAIRS IN THE GYM)

BRING: YOUR AA 12 X 12, PEN AND HIGHLIGHTER



**SEE YOU THERE!**

sponsored by  
Daily Reflections



**GARNET BLOCK SOBER DANCES**  
Last Saturday Every Month

Hot Dogs and Snacks      Door Prize and 50/50 Draw



WILDROSE United Church 1317 1st NW  
DOORS OPEN AT 8:00 PM DANCE AT 9:00 PM  
Cost — \$10.00 per person—Under 12 Free  
Music by Aurora Nights  
Fun Fellowship and Recovery!

**ROCK THE BLOCK!**

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 9:00 PM

SPEAKER MEETING  
OCTOBER

**BETTER DAYS GROUP**

OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> 8:00pm 1432 19th. N.E

**TRESA R.**

Sobriety: 37 years

Daily Reflections  
Updated Dates and Times

## Lets Play Ball

All welcome to join in the fun with some  
slow pitch baseball on the  
last Sunday of the following months



July 30<sup>th</sup>  
August 27<sup>th</sup>  
September 24<sup>th</sup>

From 5 pm - 8 pm

William Reid School, 1216 36 Ave SW

All equipment is provided.  
Everything else is up to you.

**"In The Fellowship of The Spirit"**

 **Bragg Creek**   
**Big Book Study Weekend**

**20th ANNUAL JOURNEY**

JOIN US ON THE BROAD HIGHWAY  
AS WE TRUDGE THE ROAD OF HAPPY DESTINY

**Facilitated by:**  
**Steve L - Redondo Beach, CA**  
**Joe C - San Diego, CA**

**WHEN:** November 10, 11 & 12, 2023  
**WHERE:** CAMP HORIZON IN BRAGG CREEK  
(35 Minutes West of Calgary)

**PRICE:** \$225.00 PER GUEST FOR THE WEEKEND INCLUDES:  
ACCOMMODATIONS - MENS AND WOMENS DORMS  
SOME SINGLE AND RUSTIC COUPLES PRIVATE BUNK ROOMS  
AVAILABLE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

**ALL MEALS:** FRIDAY NIGHT: SUPPER  
SATURDAY: BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER  
SUNDAY MORNING: BREAKFAST  
SNACKS SERVED THROUGHOUT THE EVENT

□ **REGISTRATION OPENS FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 9 - CLOSES MONDAY NOVEMBER 6**  
**REGISTER AT:** [fellowshipbraggcreek@gmail.com](mailto:fellowshipbraggcreek@gmail.com)

□ **LIMITED SEATING - RESERVATION CONFIRMED WHEN PAYMENT RECEIVED**

□ **EVENT SELLS OUT - REGISTER EARLY!**

□ **FELLOWSHIP, NATURE WALKS, CAMPFIRE MEETINGS**

□ **MEDITATION CLASSES**

□ **NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 31, 2023**

Nov 4, 2023 | 9am-12am      Frank Wills Hall, 405 1 Street SE  
Cochrane, Alberta

## DISTRICT 85 / COCHRANE ROUNDUP

**Save the Date**

Save the date! Please help celebrate District 85 and support this 1-day roundup featuring 4 speakers, Bryan, Roy M, Bill W (TBA), lunch and dinner service, recovery and fellowship followed by music and fellowship. More info to come on future posts. We hope to see you there!

## The September 2023 Issue of GRAPEVINE is here!



### On the Cover: This issue is for “Young & Sober”

[To view the Table of Contents, click here.](#)

Some stories include:

#### [The Good Life](#)

I got sober two months after my 25th birthday. I’m now 15 years sober and, as they say, “I have problems in areas where I didn’t used to have areas.” That is a gross understatement.

#### [Young & Sober in Akron](#)

I got sober when I was 23, back in the 1980s before cell phones and non-smoking meetings. At that time, I was one of the youngest members in my meetings.

#### [Pitcher’s Last Stand](#)

Like tens of thousands of others, I was so looking forward to attending our fellowship’s 85th anniversary at the International AA Convention in Detroit.

#### [Way Beyond](#)

What does “life beyond my wildest dreams” look like to me? I’ll tell you.

#### [Get the fun going!](#)

When I got to AA, I was convinced that nothing in life would ever be fun again. I was just 24. Sure, I saw people laughing and enjoying life in the rooms, but that wasn’t for me.

#### [Glad I got here when I did](#)

I was young when I arrived in AA—just 25 years old. It was 1973 and I was living in the desert above Los Angeles.

#### [Living my truth](#)

When I was a little girl, I cried all the time. I was even mute at times. It wasn’t until I sobered up that I began to understand why.

#### [All in for ITALYPAA!](#)

In August of 2015, EURYPAA, the European Convention of Young People in AA, was held in Rome for the first time



## DELEGATE'S CORNER

It's that time...for Area 78, and many of our Groups and Districts, to elect our new trusted servants:

For groups, it means electing a GSR (General Service Rep) along with other important positions with the group. For District, it means choosing a DCM (District Committee Chair) and other positions for the District.

*Our Traditions and Concepts can be our guide!*

All members are welcome to come to the Area 78 Assembly in Red Deer on September 15 – 17. We will be attending to business, finding out what happened at the 73<sup>rd</sup> G.S.C. (General Service Conference), and electing five of the six Table Officers: Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The past delegate position is automatic. From current and past DCMs who apply, these folks with the past table officers, will select the 10 Chairs for the Committees: Archives, Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC), Corrections, E-Services, Grapevine, Group Records/Registrar, Literature, Public Information (PI), Remote Communities (RC), and Treatment/Accessibilities (TA). The DCMs (District Committee Members) elected by their GSRs and the GSRs (General Service Representatives) elected by their members will make up your Area 78 trusted servants for Panel 74.



Each panel serves for 2 years. Panel 74 is the 74<sup>th</sup> year since this structure was adopted by the Fellowship in 1950 (1950 + 72 = 2024). Everyone elected to a role now as a GSR, DCM, or ACO (Area Table Officers and Committee Chairs) serve from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, giving a bit of time for the transition of leadership. Outgoing and incoming Area officers will do a transition meeting in November.

Our area is one of 93 Areas in our Canada/US Conference. The word 'conference' refers to our entire Canada/US Membership in the A.A. Service Structure. Through all these roles in all these areas, information is gathered and shared so informed decisions can be made for A.A. as a whole.

The 93 areas are split into two groups, each serving a 2-year term. We have 'even-numbered-panels' and 'odd-numbered-panels'. We always start our term in an even-numbered-panel. Every year at the conference meeting in NY half the delegates coming are fairly new in their positions.

This Principle of Rotation (AA Service Manual p.107, the AA Group pamphlet, Tradition II, Concepts IX, XI and XII) is a structural anomaly and is ingenious! It provides layers of change personally and organizationally. It builds confidence and leadership in our spiritual development, forcing us to delve deeper into using ALL our principles. It evolves Alcoholics Anonymous with new solutions, diversity, and opportunity for growth.

I am aware there are folks who believe this type of service is not for them. I truly appreciate all the ways members give back for it takes a village. I am also aware some see this as the "politics" of AA. In my experience, I see behaviours that look political. But we have a process that always offers a spiritual solution to our human actions. Sometimes, we must be patient as the process unfolds. Very patient at times....

Although some groups do, in Alcoholics Anonymous we seldom nominate people to serve. Instead, we ask them to be willing. It is by carefully and thoughtfully allowing your hand to rise for service (perhaps with guidance from our service sponsor). It can be a hard thing to do and hard to know if we are ready. Every position for us is new, challenging and one that takes us 2 years to learn! We sit with our HP, move as directed to raise our hand – with the most humility we can muster – to be willing to accept the outcome as guided by a Higher Power.

In choosing our leadership, it is not by 'what we should' or by 'popularity' or by those who 'grandstand' – that's political. With our Higher Power we discern, get informed, listen to how people say what they say, and watch behaviours so we choose who we think could best serve. It is by choosing someone who has what you want for yourself, your group, district, and area. Choose carefully for these are your *trusted* servants.



What I notice most in our process of rotation, elections and serving, is how our program gives everyone an equal opportunity to deepen and enlarge their spiritual program. It offers understanding and the gift as we apply all 36 principles found in our Three Legacies – Recovery with our 12 Steps, Unity in our 12 Traditions and Service through our 12 Concepts: all important parts of this life-saving fellowship. I invite you to get in the middle. As our Big Book says, "... obviously, you cannot transmit something you haven't got. See to it that your relationship with Him is right and great events will come to pass for you and countless others. This is the Great Fact for us."

Serving you with much Love,

Tami

Your Panel 72 Delegate 💜



**Step 9 - "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."**

GOOD judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence—these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine.

After we have made the list of people we have harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance, and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see that the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reasonably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.

Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct amends from the day we join Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment we tell our families that we are really going to try the program, the process has begun. In this area there are seldom any questions of timing or caution. We want to come in the door shouting the good news. After coming from our first meeting, or perhaps after we have finished reading the book "Alcoholics Anonymous," we usually want to sit down with some member of the family and readily admit the damage we have done by our drinking. Almost always we want to go further and admit other defects that have made us hard to live with. This will be a very different occasion, and in sharp contrast with those hangover mornings when we alternated between reviling ourselves and blaming the family (and everyone else) for our troubles. At this first sitting, it is necessary only that we make a general admission of our defects. It may be unwise at this stage to rehash certain harrowing episodes. Good judgment will suggest that we ought to take our time. While we may be quite willing to reveal the very worst, we must be sure to remember that we cannot buy our own peace of mind at the expense of others.

**From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.83-84.**

**Tradition 9 - "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."**

When Tradition Nine was first written, it said that "Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization." In years since then, we have changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous—A.A. as a whole—should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized. How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, "What do they mean, no organization?"

Well, let's see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn't somehow discipline its members and enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn't nearly every society on earth give authority to some of its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board, \* nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We've tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result. Groups have tried to expel members, but the banished have come back to sit in the meeting place, saying, "This is life for us; you can't keep us out." Committees have instructed many an A.A. to stop working on a chronic backslider, only to be told: "How I do my Twelfth Step work is my business. Who are you to judge?"...

Just as the aim of each A.A. member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it.

**From Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p.172-175.**