

District 12 Dispatch

District 12's General Service philosophy, as derived from "A.A.'s Legacy of Service" (Bill W., 1951), is to assist its GSRs to help ensure that their groups carry the message. *"Our Twelfth Step — carrying the message — is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives; this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence.*

Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die. Hence, an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer..."



District 12 General Service is supported by the voluntary contributions of the groups it serves and is guided and directed by the Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service, the guiding principles by which A.A. members recover and by which our Society functions through the principles of A.A.'s Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

District 12's General Service primary purpose is to stimulate A.A. members interest in general service by relying on good communication as the primary means to show that "service can add a rich dimension to their sober lives and Twelfth Step work, and that participation is vital to the future of A.A." (S23)

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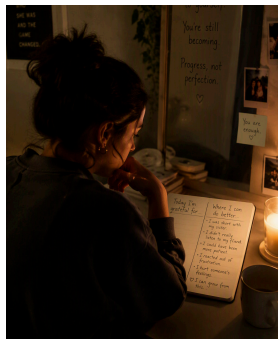
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Step 10

“Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.”

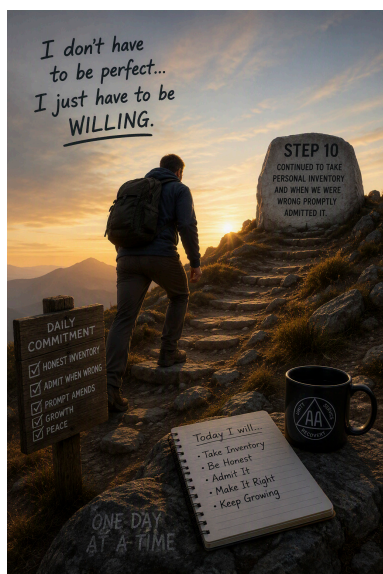
Principle of this Step:

PERSEVERANCE



What can I surrender in this step?

My belief that I don't need to enhance the inventory I did in Step 4 each and every day and identify "defects du jour."



The one thing I need to know about Step 10:

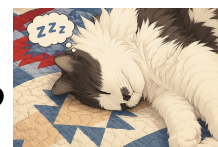
"This is What a Sober Day Looks Like"

AA's Tenth Step, "Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it," is a powerful tool for maintaining sobriety and emotional balance. While many people focus on the action of self-examination, the heart of Step 10 is willingness. It requires a daily commitment to honestly look at our thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors, even when doing so is uncomfortable. This willingness helps prevent the accumulation of resentment, fear, and dishonesty that can threaten both recovery and personal growth.

A willingness to commit to Step 10 means accepting that recovery is an ongoing process rather than a destination. No one practices this step perfectly. Instead, members learn to approach each day with humility, recognizing that mistakes will happen. The commitment lies not in being flawless but in being willing to acknowledge shortcomings and make corrections quickly. This attitude fosters accountability and helps build stronger relationships with family, friends, coworkers, and fellow recovering individuals.

Step 10 also encourages a willingness to remain teachable. As people grow in recovery, they may be tempted to believe they have mastered certain aspects of life. However, the Tenth Step reminds them to stay open to self-discovery and spiritual growth. By regularly taking inventory, individuals become more aware of recurring patterns and can address them before they develop into larger problems. This ongoing practice strengthens character and deepens a person's connection to the principles of honesty, willingness, and responsibility.

Ultimately, the success of Step 10 depends on a sincere willingness to commit to daily action. Even a brief moment of reflection each day can reveal opportunities for growth and correction. When individuals consistently practice this step, they develop greater self-awareness, emotional stability, and peace of mind. Through a willing commitment to personal inventory and prompt amends, Step 10 becomes more than a recovery exercise; it becomes a way of life that supports lasting sobriety and continuous spiritual progress.



MYTHS ABOUT THIS STEP

You constantly need to apologize to everyone. Some AA members get hung up on this step because it involves admitting when you've done something wrong. But it isn't so much about apologizing to others as it is being aware of actions that harm yourself and others. It is a very personal process of constant inward reflection.

Taking this step displays a willingness to write inventory and allow it to surrender something within us.

"Old Behavior Isn't Old Behavior If We're Still Doing It"

Tradition 10

"Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

Overriding Idea of Tradition 10:

Outside Issues Can Tear Us Apart

Principle:
Outside Issues



AA Tradition 10: Why It Matters in a Divided World



Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition 10 states: *"Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy."* At first glance, this tradition may seem simple, but it serves a vital purpose in protecting AA's primary mission. AA exists to help alcoholics achieve and maintain sobriety. By refusing to take positions on political, social, religious, or cultural debates, AA remains focused on the one thing that unites its members: a desire to stop drinking. Tradition 10 reminds us that recovery is the common ground that transcends all other differences.

Today's world is marked by increasing conflict, polarization, and division. People often find themselves separated by political beliefs, social movements, religious convictions, and cultural disagreements. Many public discussions quickly become contentious, leaving individuals feeling isolated, angry, or misunderstood. If AA were to adopt opinions on such matters, it would risk alienating members who come seeking help rather than debate. An alcoholic walking into a meeting should not have to wonder whether their political views, religious beliefs, or social positions will affect their acceptance. Tradition 10 helps ensure that every suffering alcoholic can find a place at the table.

The wisdom of this tradition lies in its recognition that unity is essential for recovery. Alcoholism does not discriminate; it affects people from every background, ideology, and walk of life. When members set aside outside issues within the fellowship, they create an environment where honesty, humility, and mutual support can flourish. This does not mean individuals must abandon their personal beliefs. Rather, it means that within AA, those beliefs take a back seat to the shared purpose of helping one another stay sober. By avoiding controversy, AA preserves the atmosphere of safety and inclusion that makes recovery possible.

More than ever, Tradition 10 offers a valuable lesson for both AA and society as a whole. In a culture where people are often encouraged to choose sides, AA demonstrates the power of focusing on common needs instead of differences. The fellowship's strength comes from its ability to bring together people who might disagree on countless issues yet still support one another in recovery. By keeping outside controversies outside the rooms, AA protects its unity, safeguards its message, and ensures that the hand of AA remains available to anyone seeking help. In a divided world, Tradition 10 is not merely a guideline; it is a practical expression of compassion, humility, and the belief that what unites us is stronger than what divides us.



The Only Problem We Ever Really Have Is Separation From God

CONCEPT 10

“Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.”

ONE THING YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Clarity of Roles, Responsibility and Authority is Vital

PRINCIPLE OF THE CONCEPT:

CLARITY

AA Concept 10: Responsibility and Authority Must Go Hand in Hand

Alcoholics Anonymous Concept 10 teaches that every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority. This principle recognizes a simple but powerful truth: people cannot effectively carry out a responsibility if they are not given the authority needed to fulfill it. When individuals are held accountable for results but are denied the ability to make decisions or take action, frustration and discouragement inevitably follow. The concept protects both the individual servant and the organization by creating a clear balance between responsibility and authority.



In AA service, trusted servants are often asked to coordinate activities, lead committees, or oversee important functions. However, if these servants must constantly seek permission for every decision or have their judgment repeatedly overridden, they quickly become ineffective. Responsibility without authority creates confusion because expectations remain high while the tools needed for success remain unavailable. Members who sincerely want to serve may find themselves unable to complete their commitments, not because of a lack of dedication, but because they lack the authority necessary to accomplish the task.

The consequences of this imbalance can be significant. When people are repeatedly given responsibilities without the authority to carry them out, many eventually become discouraged and withdraw from service. They may feel blamed for outcomes they had no real power to influence. Over time, this can lead to burnout, resignation, and a reluctance among members to accept future service positions. An organization that expects accountability without granting authority risks losing capable and willing servants who simply want the opportunity to perform their duties effectively.

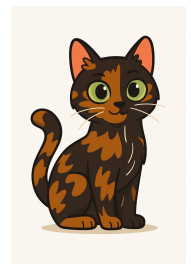
Concept 10 offers a practical solution by insisting that responsibility and authority must always be clearly defined and balanced. When trusted servants are granted appropriate authority, they are empowered to make decisions, solve problems, and fulfill their commitments with confidence. This creates an environment of trust, accountability, and effective service. By honoring this principle, AA encourages members to serve willingly, knowing they have both the responsibility and the authority necessary to carry out the work entrusted to them.

Clarity of Roles, Responsibility and Authority is Vital

I bet the company you work for believes this as well. No effective and successful business can run without it. A.A. has gone to great lengths to ensure there is final/ultimate authority and to define where it lies should any “course correction” ever be needed.

This Concept suggests that providing trusted servants with clearly defined jobs and the authority to do those jobs is equally important.

This is where the idea of the “group conscience” as ultimate authority and the “trusted servant” as delegated authority clearly cross paths and need each other to function.



CONCEPTS CHECKLIST

- 1 Do we understand “authority” and “responsibility” as they relate to group conscience decisions by G.S.R.s, D.C.M.s and our area delegates?
- 2 Why is delegation of “authority” so important to the overall effectiveness of A.A.?
- 4 3 Do we use this concept to define the scope of “authority”?



Contribute to the Newsletter

- Your personnel story
- Anniversary or pot luck at your Home Group—Flyers are needed
- Events for the web site
- ahlgrenscott@yahoo.com

**All these events can be found on
“twinportsaa.org” with flyers and directions**

9-19-2026: Annual Scenic Serenity Meeting - Hibbing MN

9-19-2026: St. Cloud Intergroup Convention - Sauk Rapids MN

10-2-2026: Recovery on the River Jamboree - Eau Claire WI

10-3-2026: Area 35 Fall Assembly - Baxter MN

10-18-2026: 50th Anniversary Basic Text - Duluth MN Alano

10-24-2026: Joint Area 35 & 36 Corrections Workshop - Foley MN

11-28-2026: Founders Day Celebration - Bloomington MN

The Twelve Steps

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

TWIN PORTS INTERGROUP

Reading library

stocked with all AA

- books and literature

Flyers and announcements

- for events

Volunteer

- opportunities galore

- Meeting directories



5719 Grand Ave.
Duluth MN 55807
218-727-8117

Twin Ports Area Intergroup is here to help anyone who
has a drinking problem.

Our sole purpose is to carry the message of Alcoholics
Anonymous and to be of service to A.A. Groups in
Northern Minnesota & Wisconsin.

Flex your funny bone.

If a great caption springs to mind when you look at this picture, submit it for possible publication on our humor page. Or vote for your favorite caption!



Daily Reflections October

- It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for alcohol is a subtle foe.
- As we work the first nine Steps, we prepare ourselves for the adventure of a new life. But when we approach Step Ten we commence to put our A.A. way of living to practical use, day by day, in fair weather or foul. Then comes the acid test: can we stay sober, keep in emotional balance, and live to good purpose under all conditions?
- . . . we know that the pains of drinking had to come before sobriety, and emotional turmoil before serenity.
- Continued to take personal inventory. . . .
- . . . and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
- It is a spiritual axiom that every time we are disturbed, no matter what the cause, there is something wrong with us.
- When we speak or act hastily or rashly, the ability to be fair-minded and tolerant evaporates on the spot.
- This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime.

Month of September in A.A. History

- 1936 - Bill C. a Canadian alkie staying at Bill's house, committed suicide using a gas stove.
- 1951 - Sister Ignatia wrote "Care of Alcoholics ? St.Thomas Hospital & A.A. Started Movement Which Swept Country" article in "Hospital Progress," the journal of Catholic Hospital Association.
- 1945 - AA Grapevine adopted as national publication of AA.
- 1957 - Book "A.A. Comes of Age" published.
- 1947 - "The Melbourne Group" held its first meeting in Australia.
- 1935 - Ebby T, Bills sponsor, moves in with Bill and Lois.

In every copy:

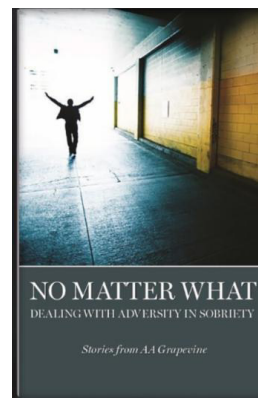
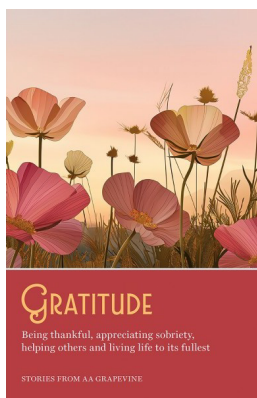
- Letter from the editor
- Dear Grapevine
- Discussion topic
- Alcoholism at large
- At Wits End



October 2026 Grapevine

Loneliness

October's special section is about "Loneliness." AA members share touching, helpful stories about dealing with a common feeling that's rarely discussed



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.