

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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Step 9

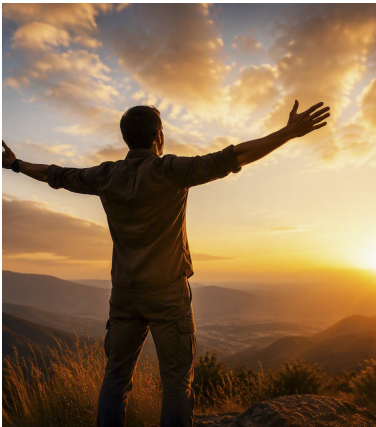
“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

Principle of this Step:
Discipline



What can I surrender in this Step?

- 1.) My hesitation to take action, and
- 2.) Fear they won't accept my amends, and
- 3.) Fear of the outcome



The one thing I need to know about Step 9:

"The Action Continues"

From Reluctance to Readiness: Understanding AA Step 9

Step 9 of Alcoholics Anonymous asks us to make direct amends to the people we have harmed whenever possible, except when doing so would injure them or others. For many members, this step can feel overwhelming. After completing the personal inventory of Step 4 and sharing it in Step 5, we have already faced difficult truths about ourselves. Yet Step 9 requires something even more challenging: taking action and facing the people affected by our past behavior. It is natural to feel reluctant, fearful, and uncertain about what these conversations might bring.

Much of our hesitation comes from fear of rejection, shame, and the possibility of reopening old wounds. We may worry that people will not forgive us or that they will remind us of the pain we caused. Some of us imagine the worst possible outcomes and convince ourselves that avoiding the situation is safer. This reluctance is not a sign of failure. In fact, it is a common experience among those working the program. The courage required for Step 9 is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to move forward despite it.

Over time, many members discover that the discomfort of making amends is far less painful than continuing to carry guilt and regret. Through the guidance of a sponsor and the support of the fellowship, reluctance often begins to change into willingness. We start to recognize that Step 9 is not about forcing forgiveness or repairing every relationship exactly as it once was. Instead, it is about taking responsibility, cleaning up our side of the street, and demonstrating through our actions that we are committed to living differently.

As we complete our amends, we frequently find a sense of freedom that seemed impossible when we first approached the step. The people we harmed may respond in different ways, but our growth no longer depends on their reaction. By moving from reluctance to readiness, we experience the healing power of honesty, humility, and accountability. Step 9 reminds us that recovery is not only about stopping our destructive behavior but also about making things right whenever we can, one amends at a time.

“Faith without works is dead.”



- **We have to disclose every detail of our mistakes.** Full disclosure may harm the one with whom we are making amends, or quite often, other people. It won't make us feel any better to increase the burden of another.
- **It's about getting them to like you again.** This Step is not about getting back in the good graces of those we've harmed – it's about our willingness to do the footwork, take the action, and leave the results up to God. We're not in charge of the outcome, only the work to get us there.

Tradition 9

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

Overriding Idea of Tradition 9:
Organization and Service Aren't Mutually Exclusive

Principle:
Spirit of Service

AA Tradition 9 and the Responsibility of Service

Alcoholics Anonymous Tradition 9 states that "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." This tradition reminds members that AA is not governed by leaders or managed through rigid authority structures. Instead, trusted servants carry out essential service work, ensuring that the Fellowship functions effectively while remaining accountable to the groups they serve. Tradition 9 preserves AA's spirit of unity by emphasizing service rather than control.



Service boards and committees play a vital role in helping AA fulfill its primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. These bodies coordinate activities such as public information, corrections work, treatment outreach, literature distribution, and event planning. Without the willingness of members to serve, many of the resources and opportunities that support recovery would simply not exist. The effectiveness of AA depends on members stepping forward to share responsibility for these important tasks.

Serving on boards and committees should be viewed as the responsibility of every member rather than the duty of a select few. When the same individuals carry the workload year after year, burnout can occur and valuable perspectives may be lost. Broad participation brings fresh ideas, diverse experiences, and a stronger connection between service entities and the groups they represent. Every member has unique talents that can contribute to the health and growth of the Fellowship.

Tradition 9 teaches that leadership in AA is rooted in humility, accountability, and service. By participating in boards and committees, members give back to the Fellowship that supports their recovery while helping ensure that AA remains strong for future generations. When all members share in service work, the burden is lighter, the Fellowship is stronger, and the message of hope reaches more people in need. Service is not merely an opportunity in AA; it is a shared responsibility that helps preserve the Fellowship's future.

Traditions Inventory

Do I still try to boss things in AA?

Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?

Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?

Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?

Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?

Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?

Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?

What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

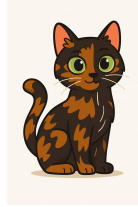
The Only Problem We Ever Really Have Is Separation From God

CONCEPT 9

“Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.”

ONE THING YOU NEED TO KNOW:

We Lead to Serve Rather Than Leading to Govern



PRINCIPLE OF THE CONCEPT:

Vision

Concept 9: A Year-Round Responsibility

AA's Concept 9 reminds us that good leadership at all service levels is essential to our future welfare and safety. While many members naturally think about trusted servants during election season, the spirit of Concept 9 encourages a much broader view. Identifying and developing capable leaders is not a yearly event but an ongoing responsibility that belongs to all of us. Healthy service structures depend on members who are willing to recognize potential, encourage participation, and support others in their growth.



Throughout the year, groups, districts, and area committees provide opportunities to observe members in action. We see who arrives prepared, who listens carefully, who works well with others, and who demonstrates humility and commitment to AA principles. These everyday acts of service often reveal leadership qualities far more clearly than a nomination speech or election discussion. Concept 9 invites us to pay attention to these qualities long before positions need to be filled.

Finding future trusted servants also means creating an environment where members can learn and gain experience. Encouragement, mentoring, and shared responsibility help newer members develop confidence in service. When experienced servants take time to explain responsibilities, answer questions, and provide support, they help ensure that AA's service structure remains strong for generations to come. Leadership development is not about selecting a few individuals but about fostering growth throughout the Fellowship.

By embracing Concept 9 as a year-round practice, we strengthen AA's ability to carry the message effectively. Elections become less about finding someone willing to serve at the last minute and more about recognizing members who have already demonstrated dedication, responsibility, and spiritual fitness. When we continually seek, encourage, and develop future trusted servants, we honor the principles of AA and help safeguard its future.

We Lead to Serve Rather Than Leading to Govern

- As we study the Concepts, the ninth change that is taking place in us is that we understand we must become selfless leaders.
- What are the changes that need to take place in our lives in the ninth concept in order to serve as good leaders? We need to surrender old ideas about leadership and be willing to put aside any personal ambitions, feuds, and controversies that prevent us from offering effective leadership.
- We need to become a spiritual example, someone who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that others want to back us up and help us with our job.
 - Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
 - Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election?
 - Do we sometimes give a position to someone “because it would be good for them”?
 - Do I set a positive leadership example?



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**

- 8-26-2026: We Are Not A Glum Lot Anniversary - Duluth
8-29-2026: Area 35 Treatment Service Workshop - St. Cloud
9-11-2026: Duluth Roundup - Duluth MN
9-11-2026: Heartland Roundup - Park Rapids
9-12-2026: Back to Basics Annual Speaker Meeting - Virginia
9-17-2026: Midwest CAMPYPAA - Gay Mills WI
9-19-2026: Scenic Serenity Open Meeting - Hibbing
9-19-2026: St. Cloud Intergroup Convention - St. Cloud
9-26-2026: Balkan Open Meeting - Chisholm

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

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 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.

Daily Reflections September



- The willingness to grow is the essence of all spiritual development.
- We feel a man is unthinking when he says sobriety is enough.
- Yes, there is a long period of reconstruction ahead. . . .
- We are there to sweep off our side of the street, realizing that nothing worth while can be accomplished until we do so, never trying to tell him what he should do. His faults are not discussed. We stick to our own.
- We asked His protection and care with complete abandon.
- They [the Promises] are being fulfilled among us — sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly.
- They [the Promises] will always materialize if we work for them.
- Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage and prudence — these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine.
- 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.

Month of September in A.A. History

- 1938 - Bill W & Hank P form Works Publishing Co.
- 1939 - Group started by Earl T in Chicago.
- 1946 - 1st A.A. group in Mexico.
- 1948 - Bob writes article for Grapevine on AA “Fundamentals – In Retrospect”.
- 1947 - Dallas Central Office opens its doors.
- 1971 - First European Convention, Bristol, England, Sally Cousins, Archivist



In every copy:

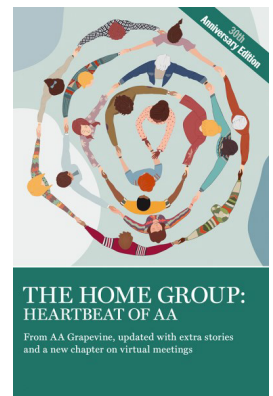
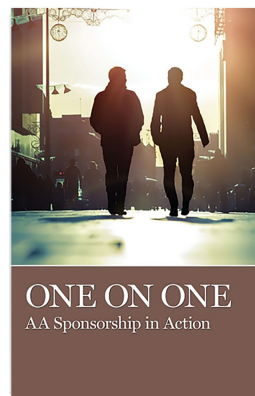
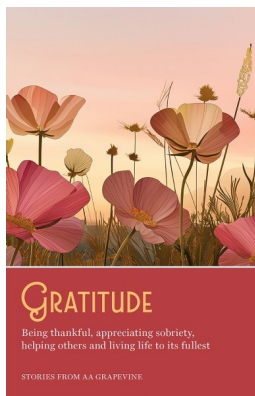
- Letter from the editor
- Dear Grapevine
- Discussion topic
- Alcoholism at large
- At Wits End



September 2026 Grapevine

Sponsorship

September's featured section is all about “Sponsorship” It's full of helpful, personal and often humorous stories by members about the joys and challenges of AA sponsorship.



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.