

MAIA

TIPPLER

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

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

Concept 9 “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.”

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“...the actual or potential alcoholic, with hardly an exception, will be absolutely unable to stop drinking on the basis of self knowledge. This is a point we wish to emphasize and re-emphasize, to smash home upon our alcoholic readers as it has been revealed to us out of bitter experience.”

~ **Big Book, pg. 39**

Memphis Area Intergroup Association
3540 Summer Ave., Suite 104
Memphis, TN 38122

901 454-1414 office
memphisarea@bellsouth.net
memphis-aa.org



SEPTEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	6:45 - 7:45 pm Treatment Committee 8:00 - 9:00 pm District 21 Committee	6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Correctional Committee	4	5	6	9:00 am - 10:30 am District 24 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm District 22
8 11:00 am - 12:00 pm District 23	9	6:00 - 7:00 pm Memphis Area Grapevine Committee	10 6:00 - 7:00 pm District 25	11	12	13 14
15	6:45 pm - 7:45 pm CPC/PI Committee	16 17	18	19	6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Accessibility Committee	20 21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
3:45 - 5:00 pm Memphis Area Archives Committee	29 30	1	2	3	4	5

DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

September 2 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Treatment Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

September 2 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
District 21 Committee Meeting
Crosstown Concourse
1350 Concourse Ave #1072
Memphis, TN 38104

September 3 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Area Correctional Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

September 7 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am
District 24
Hybrid (ID 9186700041) p/w welcome
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church
2855 Morning Sun Road
Lakeland, 38016
September 7 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
District 22
Olympia Steak & Pizza
8500 Wilkinsville Road
Millington, TN 38053

September 8 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
District 23
Zoom password 847990

September 10 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Memphis Area Grapevine Committee
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd

September 11 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
District 25
Germantown United Methodist Church
2324 Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

September 16 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
CPC/PI Committee
Shady Grove Presbyterian Church
5530 Shady Grove
online: 85446570800 p/w 13577

Memphis, TN 38120
September 20 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Accessibility Committee
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111
September 29 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm
Memphis Area Archives Committee
Two Doors Down
1578 Yorkshire



MAIA

3540 Summer Avenue

Suite 104

Memphis, TN 38122

901-454-1414

memphisarea@bellsouth.net

Monday/Friday: 8 am - 4 pm
Closed daily from 1 pm - 2 pm

The MAIA Intergroup Representatives business meeting is held on the second Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. Please join us on July 9, 2023 at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or join online. Please call or email the office for the meeting ID & passcode.

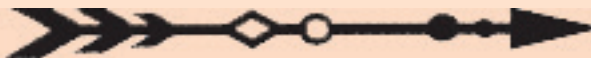
If you are looking for a new location for meeting space you may contact your Intergroup office for details

BECOME A HIGH FIVER

Memphis Area Intergroup has been the link between the A.A. recovery community and the newcomer and, even as importantly, with one another since 1960. Many of us are grateful to the office for its helping hand, but have either not known that Intergroup needs our support, or our contributions have been put off due to our new busy and happy lives. "High Fivers" is a way we have found to allow members to show their gratitude by making sure the services provided by the office continues. High Fivers is a program of commitment; we commit to a \$5.00 contribution per month, either monthly, quarterly, or annually. Contact our office with details on the ways with which you can submit your monetary contributions. Intergroup, in return, will send an acknowledgment for your contributions at the end of each calendar year. These contributions are tax deductible. As an expression of gratitude, you will receive a hard copy of this newsletter in the mail each month.

SCAN TO CONTRIBUTE TO MAIA

The Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. In keeping with A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support, we accept contributions only from A.A. members.



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Central Gardens

John McD. 35 yrs
Cap P. 41 yrs
Dan M. 43 yrs

Hollywood

Bertha W. 5 yrs
Mario L. 1 yr

Out of Towners

Cathy A. 29 yrs
Lisa N. 29 yrs
Steve F. 8 yrs
Lisa C. 5 yrs
Josh N. 2 yrs

Seriously Sober

Mark T. 31 yr
Beryl W. 32 yrs

Tradition Nine of Alcoholics Anonymous states, “A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.” This tradition is a cornerstone of the AA fellowship, ensuring that the organization remains flexible, accessible, and focused on its primary purpose: helping alcoholics achieve sobriety.

Preserving the Spirit of Fellowship

The essence of Tradition Nine lies in the idea that AA should not become overly structured or hierarchical. This lack of formal organization preserves the spirit of equality and mutual support that is at the heart of the AA experience. In AA, no one member has authority over another; everyone is on equal footing, regardless of how long they’ve been sober or what role they play within the group. This fosters an environment of inclusivity and humility, where the only focus is on recovery and helping others achieve sobriety.

Encouraging Personal Responsibility

By avoiding rigid structures, Tradition Nine encourages members to take personal responsibility for their own recovery and for the functioning of their group. Instead of relying on a central authority or strict rules, members are encouraged to participate in the group conscience and to contribute to the group’s welfare in whatever ways they can. This not only empowers individuals but also reinforces the idea that everyone’s voice is important in AA, and that the group functions best when all members are actively engaged.

Flexibility to Meet Diverse Needs

AA groups vary widely in their makeup and in the needs of their members. Some groups may be small and intimate, while others are large and diverse. Tradition Nine allows each group the flexibility to organize itself in a way that best meets the needs of its members without being

bound by a one-size-fits-all structure. This adaptability is crucial in ensuring that AA can serve alcoholics from all walks of life, in all kinds of communities, and in all kinds of situations.

Maintaining Focus on Primary Purpose

Tradition Nine also serves as a safeguard against the potential distractions that can come with formal organization. Without a rigid structure, AA remains focused on its primary purpose: carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The tradition helps prevent the fellowship from becoming bogged down in bureaucracy or losing sight of its mission in the pursuit of organizational goals.

Ensuring Accountability

While Tradition Nine discourages formal organization, it does acknowledge the need for service boards or committees to handle practical matters, such as managing funds or coordinating events. However, these entities are always directly responsible to those they serve—the group members. This ensures that any organizational efforts remain grounded in the needs and wishes of the fellowship as a whole, maintaining transparency and accountability.

In summary, Tradition Nine is vital in maintaining the unique, grassroots nature of Alcoholics Anonymous. It ensures that the fellowship remains a supportive, flexible, and inclusive environment where the focus is always on recovery and helping others, free from the constraints and distractions of formal organization.

Tradition Nine in Action

I got sober in Memphis, Tennessee, where the summers are hot and humid, and the nights can feel endless. For years, I drowned myself in those nights, believing there was no way out. But eventually, the chaos I'd created became too much to bear. That's when I found the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I first walked into a meeting, I was a broken man. I had no idea what to expect, only that I needed help. What I found was a sense of belonging that I hadn't felt in years. The people there didn't judge me—they welcomed me, even though they barely knew me.

I quickly became a regular, and over time, I began to notice something unique about the way the group operated. There was no hierarchy, no one telling anyone else what to do. Meetings started on time, coffee was always ready, and the chairs were set up as if by magic. It felt like a well-oiled machine, but no one seemed to be in charge. This puzzled me at first. How could such an organized group function without someone calling the shots?

That's when I learned about Tradition Nine: "AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." This Tradition became more meaningful to me the longer I stayed sober. It was the backbone of the group's unity, ensuring that no one had absolute power and that every voice mattered.

The beauty of Tradition Nine is that it allows us to function together as a fellowship without the trappings of an organization. We're bound by a common purpose, not by rules or regulations. It was liberating to know that in AA, the only requirement for mem-

bership is a desire to stop drinking. There's no paperwork, no dues, no hierarchy—just a group of people who've been where you've been and want to help you find a way out.

One day, after about a year of sobriety, I was asked to serve as the group's treasurer. The old me would have balked at the responsibility, but by then, I'd learned that service was a way to give back what was freely given to me. I took the job seriously, but I quickly realized that I wasn't doing it alone. The group conscience guided me, and the members trusted me to do my part. I wasn't in charge—I was just another piece of the puzzle, helping to keep the group running smoothly.

As I continued to serve, I saw Tradition Nine in action all around me. I watched as newcomers were welcomed with the same warmth and acceptance that had greeted me. I saw the group conscience at work during business meetings, where every member's opinion was valued, and decisions were made collectively. The lack of formal organization didn't lead to chaos; instead, it fostered a deep sense of responsibility and community.

Over time, I came to understand that Tradition Nine is what keeps our fellowship alive and thriving. It reminds us that we're not here to control each other but to support one another on this journey of recovery. It's a Tradition that allows us to focus on what truly matters: staying sober and helping the next alcoholic who walks through those doors.

Today, I'm still a grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous. I still attend meetings, thankful for the gift of sobriety and the fellowship that helped me find it. Tradition Nine taught me that AA is not just a program—it's a way of life. It's a way of life that doesn't need rules or leaders, just a shared commitment to staying sober, one day at a time. And for that, I'll always be thankful.

-Steve P.

THIS MONTH IN AA HISTORY

September 1930: Ebby Thacher was introduced to the Oxford Group, a Christian fellowship that greatly influenced the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. This event was significant as Ebby would later carry the message to Bill Wilson, co-founder of AA.

September 11, 1934: Bill Wilson was visited by Ebby Thacher, an old drinking buddy who had found sobriety through the Oxford Group. This visit was pivotal as Ebby introduced Bill to the concept of a spiritual solution to alcoholism, which would later become a cornerstone of AA's philosophy.

September 30, 1939: The first review of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous," commonly known as the Big Book, appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. This review helped bring early public attention to the book and the AA movement.

September 1946: The AA Grapevine magazine, often referred to as the "meeting in print," became the official journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. This helped spread the AA message more widely.

September 17, 1950: Dr. Bob Smith, co-founder of AA, passed away in Akron, Ohio. His death marked the end of the co-founders' direct involvement in AA, but his legacy continued through the fellowship.

September 1957: The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous were officially adopted at the General Service Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. These traditions became the foundation for how AA groups operate and maintain unity.

September 1969: The first World Service Meeting (WSM) of AA was held in New York City. This event marked the beginning of AA's international cooperation and growth, expanding its reach beyond the United States.

Leading by Serving: Embracing Concept 9 in My Sobriety Journey

When I was asked to take on a service position in our local AA district, I hesitated. I didn't see myself as a leader, just someone trying to stay sober. But Concept 9 kept coming up in discussions—how good leadership is about being a trusted servant, not about having power. So, I stepped up, focusing on listening more than talking, guiding without controlling. Over time, I saw how important it was to have someone willing to make tough decisions for the group's welfare. It wasn't about me; it was about serving the fellowship that saved my life.

-Susan A.

Save the Date!

AA.org/International-Convention

2025 AA International Convention

July 3-6, 2025

Scan here!

VANCOUVER 2025

Language of the Heart
Lenguaje del corazón
Le langage du cœur

Third Time's a Charm

The third time I walked into the room, it was like returning to a familiar place, a place where the air was thick with the unspoken, with the shared burden of lives unraveled and stitched back together. Memphis had always been a city of contrasts—blues and gospel, wealth and poverty, hope and despair—but nowhere did those contrasts come together more starkly than in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I had been sober twice before, long enough each time to believe that maybe, just maybe, I had beaten it. But this time was different. This time, I was older, more worn down, the lines on my face etched deeper by the years of struggle. I was tired of pretending that everything was fine, tired of the weight of my own secrets.

I worked at a grocery store, the kind of place where people came and went without much notice. The aisles were my domain, the canned goods my constant companions. The work was mundane, but it was also a refuge, a place where I could lose myself in the routine, where the act of stocking shelves could numb the ache inside. But the routine also left too much room for the thoughts that haunted me—thoughts of the years wasted, of the people I had hurt, of the promises I had broken.

It was in that weary state that I met Sandra, a woman with a calm, assured presence that made me feel both exposed and understood. She became my sponsor, and with her, I began to confront the things I had long buried. Sandra was patient but firm. She guided me through the steps, not as a checklist to be completed, but as a journey to be undertaken with honesty and humility.

When we reached Step 9—making amends—I balked. I had done this before, or so I thought. I had apologized, asked for forgiveness, but it had always felt like something I was doing for them, not for myself. This time, Sandra challenged me to go deeper. “You must do it with your whole heart,” she said. “Not just with your words.”

So I began the painful process of writing down the names of those I had hurt. My ex-husband, who had long since moved on but still bore the scars of our tumultuous marriage. My children, who had grown up too fast in the shadow of my addiction. Friends who had given up on me, tired of the lies, the broken promises.

I dreaded the conversations, the looks of disappoint-

ment, the reopening of old wounds. But I knew I had to do it, not just for them, but for myself. I went to my daughter's house first. She opened the door and for a moment, we just stood there, looking at each other. She was older now, a woman with her own life, her own burdens. I told her I was sorry—not just for the things I had done, but for the mother I hadn't been. She didn't say much, but in her eyes, I saw something I hadn't expected—forgiveness.

As I made my way through the list, something began to shift inside me. Making amends wasn't just about apologizing; it was about taking responsibility for the life I had lived and the impact it had on others. It was about acknowledging the pain I had caused and finding a way to heal, both myself and those I had hurt.

The grocery store still felt like a place of refuge, but it was no longer a place to hide. Instead, it became a place where I could see the small, everyday moments that make up a life—the mother with her child, the elderly man with his shopping list, the young couple arguing over which brand of cereal to buy. These moments reminded me that life is made up of choices, and that each choice, no matter how small, has the power to shape the future.

Sandra kept me accountable, checking in with me, reminding me that this was a journey, not a destination. She encouraged me to keep going, to continue making amends, to continue healing.

And so I did. I showed up at the meetings, shared my story, listened to others. I worked Step 9 with a sense of purpose I hadn't felt before. I wasn't just going through the motions; I was reclaiming my life, one conversation, one apology at a time.

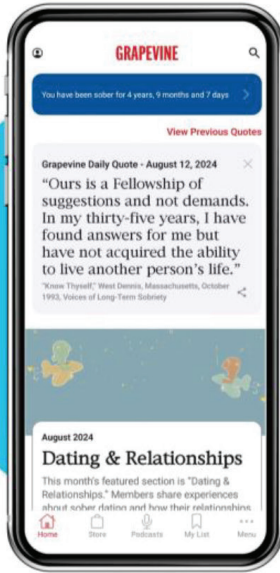
Memphis was still a city of contrasts, but now, I could see the beauty in it—the resilience of its people, the way they came together in times of hardship, the way they found joy in the simple things. I was part of that now, part of the fabric of the city, part of the community of people who had chosen to face their demons and find a way forward.

I don't know what the future holds, but for the first time in a long time, I feel hopeful. I'm working Step 9, and it's not easy, but it's necessary. It's helping me to rebuild, to find peace in the midst of the chaos. And for that, I am grateful.

-Fiona W.

GRAPEVINE News *Pass it on!*

What's New For September 2024



The Grapevine and La Viña Apps

Help us spread the word about the apps. Members can download the apps and subscribe directly on the Apple Store or Google Play.

SCAN BARCODE



For iPhone



For Android



The Grapevine YPAA World Tour: Kickoff at the 64th ICYPAA in...

AA Grapevine

10 videos 31 views Updated 6 days ago



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NEW in the Audio Project!

YPAA World Tour: Kickoff at the 64th ICYPAA in Austin, Texas. Look for new stories each month! Learn more [here](#).

2024 CARRY THE MESSAGE PROJECT

Want to help another alcoholic?

aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message

	Aug 24	Aug 23	Jan - Aug 24
Any Length Group	0.93	0.00	151.86
Ave Fenix	0.00	0.00	6.83
Bluff City Fellowship	0.00	0.00	1.96
Bluff City Group	0.00	0.00	260.96
Bozos on the Bus	24.00	0.00	24.00
Came to Believe Group	0.00	0.00	150.00
Central Gardens Group	0.00	50.00	350.00
Collierville Group	0.00	0.00	1,707.15
Committee - Archives	0.00	50.00	50.00
Covington	0.00	0.00	100.00
Crosstown Group	0.00	0.00	0.61
Design For Living	0.00	40.67	0.00
Downtown Nooners N/S	0.00	0.00	108.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	0.00	102.86	834.97
Earlybird	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
Eudora	0.00	0.00	50.00
Friends of Bill W	200.00	250.00	400.00
Germantown Noon	146.25	0.00	1,592.79
Grace in the Grove	0.00	0.00	248.56
Growing Flowers	0.41	0.00	0.41
Hollywood	0.00	0.00	0.62
Horn Lake	10.00	5.00	35.00
Lakeland	0.00	0.00	379.84
Love and Tolerance	0.00	0.00	50.00
Men of Recovery	0.00	0.00	0.07
Morning Glories	0.00	0.00	43.00
Neshoba Awakening	0.00	10.00	10.00
New Start	0.00	0.00	25.00
Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group	0.00	0.00	45.00
Pleasant Hill	0.00	0.00	941.23
Pride and Principles	0.00	0.00	125.00
Primary Purpose	0.83	50.00	300.88
Real Deal	0.00	0.00	5.00
Rule-62	225.00	0.00	387.50
Second Chance	0.00	0.00	300.00
SERCYPAA	0.00	0.00	2,995.41
Serenity	0.00	0.00	300.00
Seriously Sober	308.00	0.00	469.21
Shady Ladies	300.41	300.00	1,800.41
Sober Journey	0.00	0.00	502.00
Solutions Group	0.00	0.00	840.00
Sommerville Triangle	0.00	0.00	150.00
South Memphis	0.00	0.00	20.00
Stone Carolyn	0.00	0.00	35.00
Straight Outta Bondage	250.00	0.00	471.00
The Nooner	208.00	155.56	1,562.64
Three Legged Stool	0.00	0.00	300.00
Traditions	50.00	100.00	250.00
Two Doors Down	0.00	300.00	1,800.00
Unity Group	96.88	231.07	1,089.52
WAAGL	100.00	100.00	800.00
West Memphis Group	40.00	0.00	540.00
Whitehaven Morning Sunrisers-	0.00	0.00	50.00
Winchester	0.00	0.00	167.50
TOTAL	1,960.71	1,745.16	25,228.93

HEARD IN A MEETING

"You're only as sick as your secrets."

"If nothing changes, nothing changes."

"God never wastes a hurt."

"One day at a time, but sometimes one minute at a time."

"Courage is fear that has said its prayers."

"We don't get to stay sober on yesterday's recovery."

"Sobriety delivers everything alcohol promised."

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience."

"The steps are suggestions, just like a parachute is a suggestion."

"Don't quit before the miracle happens."

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"The Tippler" is a free monthly publication, and will be emailed to anyone interested. However, if you'd like to receive a copy via USPS, a contribution of \$5 monthly, or \$60 annually, helps defray the costs involved. Fill out the form below and , along with your contribution, mail to the above address. We thank you!

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____