

MAIA

TIPPLER

SEPTEMBER 2025

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.”

CONTENTS

Page 2.	Calendar
Page 3.	Birthdays
Page 4.	Step Nine
Page 5.	Tradition 9
Page 6.	AA History/ Cornerstones of Service
Page 7.	“Stools & Bottles”
Page 8.	Concept Nine
Page 9.	Group Contributions

“We are careful not to go to the person who had harmed us and tell him what we will do for him or her. We don't crawl before anyone. We explain that we will never get over drinking until we have done our utmost to straighten out the past. We are there to sweep off our side of the street, realizing that nothing worthwhile 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.”

-Big Book p 83-84

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

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



SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	6:45 - 7:45 pm 1 Treatment Committee 8:00 - 9:00 pm District 21 Committee	2 6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Correctional Committee	3	4	5	6 9:00 am - 10:30 am District 24 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm District 22
7	8	9 6:00 - 7:00 pm Memphis Area Grapevine Committee	10 6:00 - 7:00 pm District 25	11	12	13
14 11:00 am - 12:00 pm District 23	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

DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

September 1 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Treatment Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

September 1 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
District 21 committee Meeting
Crosstown Concourse
1350 Concourse Ave #1072
Memphis, TN 38104

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

September 6 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am
District 24-Hybrid ID#86700041
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church
2855 Morning Sun Road
Lakeland, 38016

September 6 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
District 22
Olympia Steak House
85 Wilkinsville Rd.
Millington, TN 38053

September 9 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Memphis Area Grapevine Committee
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd

September 10 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
District 25
Germantown United Methodist Church
2324 Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

September 14 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
District 23
Zoom password 847990

September 15 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
CPC/PI Committee
Shady Grove Presbyterian Church
5530 Shady Grove
Memphis, TN 38120

September 19 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Accessibility Committee
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

September 28 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm
Shady Grove Presbyterian Church
5530 Shady Grove
Memphis, TN 38120



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 at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or join on Zoom. 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

Oops! AUGUST: Unity

Mary R.	20 yrs
Karin S.	18 yrs
Vel J.	13 yrs
Holly H.	13 yrs
Brandy P.	6 yrs
Harley E.	2 yrs
Anna S.	1 yr

SEPTEMBER:

Central Gardens

Cap P.	42 yrs
Dan M.	44 yrs

Downtown Nooners

Brenda L.	20 yrs
-----------	--------

Hollywood

Bertha W.	6 yrs
Mario L.	2 yrs

Out of Towners Fellowship

Cathy A.	30 yrs
Lisa N.	30 yrs
Steve F.	9 yrs
Lisa C.	6 yrs
Josh N.	3 yrs

Seriously Sober

Beryl W.	33 yrs
Mark T.	32 yrs

Unity

Arlene S.	29 yrs
Jon O.	13 yrs
Sarah G.	3 yrs
Casie W.	2 yrs

Winchester

Gene H.	5 yrs
---------	-------

In order to have your group monthly birthdays listed in the TIPLER please submit your group information by the 15th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter."



STEP NINE

THE MENDING PROCESS

By: Corinne H. | Raleigh, North Carolina

During my first month in Alcoholics Anonymous I did what so many have done before me--I decided, without benefit of sponsor or sanity, to immediately make amends. For years I had been attending church every time the doors opened, hoping something would help me (it never occurred to me to quit drinking). In my prayer group was a woman who irritated the bejabbers out of me. How I tried to help that woman learn to pray! I behaved very badly. Upon getting dry she was the very first person I decided to make amends to. I called and said something like, "Dora, I just wanted to tell you that I love you," and she promptly replied, "Thanks one whole heckuva lot" and hung up on me. I was crushed!

Each of the Twelve Steps has required, for me, a new surrender. And Step Nine was no different. For a long time I agonized because nothing seemed to be happening as I wandered through Steps Eight and Nine. There was no comfort, no sense of having "taken" Step Nine. I walked around for a time saying, "I'm sorry." But that didn't feel right. That had been one of the favorite responses after every drunk and overdose. Those who had heard it over and over during those awful years were more than a little skeptical of this repeat phrase.

Finally it seemed to me the only choice I had was one more surrender, one more throwing in the towel. I can't, he can, we will.

I never surrender gracefully. After being told by one of those quiet, serene old-timers to pray for willingness, I went home, stormed, ranted and raved, and generally behaved like five years old instead of fifty. Finally a sponsor's admonition to "read the Big Book" dawned. I read. I cried. I finally fell to my knees and said to old HP, "You already know my needs and wants, so from now on I'll do my best--just please help me." No more bargains, or threats, or drunken pleas. Another surrender!

I got my list out. At the top were two daughters and two sons. One daughter I had already started making amends to by being sober, caring, and responsible. I could see her acceptance of me. The three other children were another matter. One son I hadn't seen in fifteen years, the other two not for seven years. How to make the approach?

The morning after my ranting and raving, I awoke to a hot August morning with a great sense of peace--yet a feeling that the day would bring something.

At eleven o'clock my phone rang. My daughter's voice on the other end was saying, "Mom. I'm going to have a baby. Can I write to you?" She lived 700 miles away. She told me her youngest brother was in the Navy, and her oldest brother was married and expecting his first child.

And so it began. The God of my understanding gave me the opportunity to begin the mending process. What a lot of hill climbing that has been. And as with most hills, sometimes it's up and at times it's straight down. Then there are the plateaus when it seems like I'm just marking time.

The pregnant daughter and youngest son are now "home again." The oldest son--that's another matter. I wrote him a letter trying to tell him how sorry I was that I left him when he was twelve years old. Two years after the first attempt, he allowed me to see his wife and son, but wouldn't see me himself. Sometime later he developed Hodgkin's disease. Through the years, I'm told, he also developed alcoholism. As far as I know, he has chosen not to treat either of his diseases. He still will not accept my amends, fifteen years after my first attempts. There are so many times I wish God's timetable was the same as mine. But this I know for sure--when my Higher Power thinks my son and I are ready for each other, we will be reunited. I have undying faith. It has happened before. It will happen again.

The great revelation for me was that direct amends are not a thinking or wishing process. Direct amends are action-oriented. Words are necessary for people to hear that I am trying to mend my ways, but it is the living out of the principles of this program that counts.

TRADITION NINE

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

When we first hear Tradition Nine, it can sound a little confusing. How can A.A. “never be organized” and still have committees, boards, and officers? The answer lies in the difference between organization for control and organization for service.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not a business. We don’t have a CEO, supervisors, or a chain of command. No one at the top tells members or groups what to do. Instead, A.A. runs on what we call the group conscience: the combined voice of its members, usually expressed through discussion and a vote. That’s the heart of this Tradition: ultimate authority rests with the groups, not with a central office or a powerful leader.

Still, there’s practical work to be done. Meetings need chairs set up, coffee made, and literature stocked. On a larger scale, we need people to publish the Big Book, answer phones, and arrange public information efforts. That’s where service boards and committees come in. These are tools, not rulers. They handle day-to-day responsibilities so members can focus on carrying the message.

Why we avoid top-down control:

The early members learned quickly that when one person or small group takes charge, it can create division and ego battles. A.A. isn’t about power; it’s about service and recovery. By avoiding rigid organization, we protect ourselves from personalities taking over and keep the focus on our primary purpose — to help the alcoholic who still suffers.

What this looks like in real life

At the group level, we elect trusted servants, like a secretary, treasurer, or G.S.R., for set terms. They follow the group’s wishes, not their own personal agenda.

At the district, area, and national levels, we have committees and boards that coordinate bigger projects. These committees are directly responsible to the groups they serve.

No one gets to “run” A.A. as a whole. Even the General Service Board exists to carry out the decisions of the groups and the General Service Conference.

Two guiding ideas of Tradition Nine

We keep it simple. We avoid unnecessary bureaucracy or red tape. Structure exists to make service possible, not to control members.

We serve, we don’t rule. Leadership in A.A. is always about responsibility, never about power. A “leader” in A.A. is just a trusted servant with a job to do.

The result

This balance, not being “organized” in the traditional sense, yet still using service structures, is one of the reasons A.A. has lasted for decades in countries all over the world. It allows flexibility, prevents power struggles, and keeps the focus where it belongs: one alcoholic helping another.

Tradition Nine is a reminder that our unity depends on humility. We are not here to control one another. We are here to serve each other and carry the message. When we keep that in mind, the work gets done, the message is carried, and A.A. stays strong for the next person who needs it.




TRADITION NINE:
KEEP IT SIMPLE, KEEP IT SERVICE

NOT this:	BUT this:
 Rules	 Service
 Bosses	 Humility
 Control	 Group Conscience
 Ego	 Carrying the Message

BOTTOM LINE:
WE'RE NOT HERE TO RUN A.A. — WE'RE HERE TO SERVE IT.



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.

THE QUIET CORNERSTONES OF SERVICE

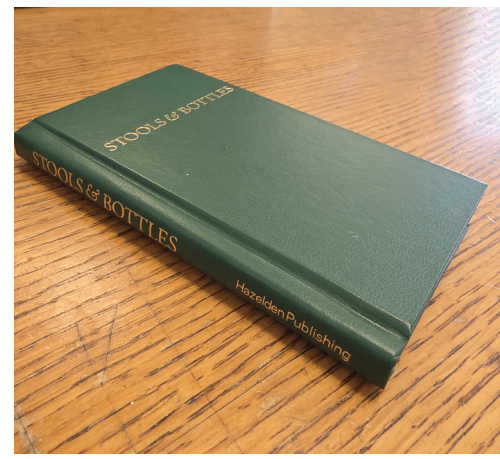
Not all service work in Alcoholics Anonymous involves a microphone or a title. Some of the most powerful contributions happen quietly, behind the scenes: refilling the coffee pot, stacking chairs, sweeping the floor, unlocking the door before a meeting, or staying behind to turn out the lights.

These small acts may seem insignificant, but they carry deep meaning. They help meetings run smoothly. They create a welcoming space. Most importantly, they remind us that we're part of something larger than ourselves.

Service doesn't require years of sobriety. It starts where we are, with what we can give. For the newcomer, wiping tables might be the first time in a long while they've felt useful. For someone with time under their belt, it's a way to stay grounded in humility and connection.

In AA, we learn that being helpful, without expecting recognition, is part of how we stay sober. We keep what we have by giving it away, even in the simplest ways. So next time you see someone folding chairs, lend a hand. That's how we keep the doors open, and the spirit alive.

Bottles of Reflection: Lessons from "Stools & Bottles"



**A.A.
DRY
DRUNK
INTOLERANCE**
(Unadulterated Sourpuss Juice)

Intolerance, the fusel oil of mental drunkenness, quickly louses up your chances of recovery in A.A. It checks 12 Step enthusiasm.

It breeds spiritual illness. It never fails to give you that "to hell with everybody but me" feeling.

This drink is unsurpassed for blocking the freedom and happiness of family, friends and associates.

Nothing equals it for slips. If you want to be drunk — unhappy — unpopular and unattached to A.A., try intolerance. You may depend upon it for these results.

**A.A.
DRY
DRUNK
CRITICISM**
(Home-brewed Dissension)

This mental intoxicant is fomented from selected defects of the alcoholic personality.

It inoculates our minds with Rumors — Gossip — Fault-finding — Intolerance — Jealousy — Rebellion and Resentment. It spreads unwarranted suspicion. It kills A.A. unity.

Criticism is highly intoxicating. A choice drink for those still in the "driver's seat." The drink with the perpetual hang-over.

Nothing threatens our sobriety or the group's safety any more than this cockeyed drink.

**A.A.
DRY
DRUNK
DISHONESTY**
(Double-crosser's Highball)

A special distillation from the pure essence of alcoholic inconsistency.

A favorite drink for male or female use where Fraud—Larceny—Chiseling—Chicanery—Drunkenness and Fear are the chief objectives.

Heavy doses of this drink will keep you at a disadvantage in A.A. — at home and among strangers.

You can depend upon dishonesty for miserable doghouse experiences.

You can't fail to fail in A.A. and to miss contented sobriety from repeated slugs out of this bottle.

**A.A.
DRY
DRUNK
RESENTMENT**
(A. A. Rotgut)

Distilled from Stinking Thinking and all the other alcoholic Character Defects.

Repeated snorts from this bottle are guaranteed to maintain mental and spiritual illness.

This drink obstructs all effort to turn your will and life over to the care of God.

If you are trying to escape humility—honesty—A.A. service and contented sobriety, drink freely.

Alcoholics have great success falling off the program and getting drunk with this drink.

Concept 9

Good Leadership in AA Service

At first glance, Concept Nine might sound a bit like a line from a corporate seminar: “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.” But when we look deeper, Concept Nine speaks directly to the heart of Alcoholics Anonymous, where humility, responsibility, and spiritual growth meet the practical need for direction.

AA has no bosses. We say that often, and it’s true. But that doesn’t mean we don’t need leaders. Without strong, humble, and spiritually grounded leadership, our structure would fall apart. Meetings would fade. Intergroups would stop printing schedules. Literature wouldn’t get written, printed, or distributed. Hospitals, jails, and treatment centers wouldn’t hear from us. The hand of AA wouldn’t be there to reach out.

So What Is “Leadership” in AA, Really?

Concept Nine makes a strong distinction: leadership in AA isn’t about control. It’s not about personalities or egos. Bill W. called it “leadership by example and by persuasion.” A good AA leader doesn’t command, they inspire. They serve. They take responsibility. They’re the ones who stay after to make coffee, who gently steer the business meeting back on track, or who volunteer to do the job no one else wants.

Leadership shows up in small ways and big ways. A General Service Representative (GSR) who carries the group conscience to district and area meetings is leading. A sponsor patiently guiding a sponsee through the Steps is leading. A trustee, safeguarding our literature and our finances on behalf of the Fellowship, is also leading.

When Leaders Are Lacking

Bill W. wasn’t shy about pointing out what happens when good leadership is absent: confusion, backbiting, stagnation. We’ve all seen it happen in a group. One person takes over and steamrolls the meeting, or no one steps up and the service positions go unfilled. Either way, it puts the group’s health at risk.

Concept Nine reminds us that leadership isn’t optional, it’s vital. But it must be the right kind of leadership: spiritual in principle, democratic in practice, and selfless in motive.

Calling All Trusted Servants

In Memphis and beyond, we are always in need of AA members willing to grow into leadership. That doesn’t mean you need a fancy title or decades of sobriety. It means you’re willing to say yes when asked. Willing to learn. Willing to be guided by the Traditions, the Concepts, and a Higher Power, not your own opinions.

Concept Nine challenges each of us to think about our role in AA’s ongoing story. Could you serve your group as GSR? Could you chair a meeting? Could you say yes to a commitment that scares you a little, but might help someone else? If you’ve ever thought “someone should do something about that,” maybe that someone is you.

In the words of Bill W.:
“We shall be in continual need of these attributes, courage, vision, and example, in ever greater measure as our Fellowship grows.”

Let’s rise to that challenge, together.

	TOTAL		
	AUG 2025	AUG 2024 (PY)	JAN - AUG, 2025 (YTD)
Any Length Group	0.00	0.93	190.00
Bluff City Group	0.00	0.00	228.05
Bozos on the Bus	0.00	24.00	0.00
Came to Believe Group	0.00	0.00	300.00
Central Gardens Group	100.00	0.00	400.00
Cherokee Group	100.00	0.00	100.00
Collierville Group	0.00	0.00	1,906.42
Downtown Nooners N/S	0.00	0.00	100.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	0.00	0.00	603.11
Earlybird	0.00	0.00	1,380.00
Friends of Bill W	0.00	200.00	200.00
Germantown Happy	0.00	0.00	2,975.00
Germantown Noon	375.00	146.25	1,155.05
Grace in the Grove	0.00	0.00	194.47
Growing Flowers	0.00	0.41	0.00
Horn Lake	0.00	10.00	5.00
ICU-	0.00	0.00	450.00
Men of Recovery	2.81	0.00	3.35
New Start	0.00	0.00	175.00
Oakland Always Open	65.00	0.00	250.00
Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group	0.00	0.00	135.00
Pleasant Hill	0.00	0.00	879.04
Pride and Principles	0.00	0.00	258.00
Primary Purpose	0.00	0.83	0.00
Queer Bees and Wanna Bes	65.00	0.00	281.00
Rule-62	0.00	225.00	100.00
S.O.S.	0.00	0.00	100.00
Second Chance	0.00	0.00	300.00
Serenity	197.32	0.00	547.32
Seriously Sober	0.00	308.00	1,293.11
Shady Ladies	300.00	300.41	1,700.00
Sober Journey	200.00	0.00	563.00
Solutions Group	0.00	0.00	840.00
South Memphis	20.00	0.00	171.35
Straight Outta Bondage	0.00	250.00	0.00
The Nooner	0.00	208.00	1,685.59
The Wynne Group	0.00	0.00	5.74
Traditions	50.00	50.00	350.00
Two Doors Down	0.00	0.00	4,100.00
Unity Group	149.98	96.88	715.52
WAAGL	75.00	100.00	450.00
West Memphis Group	0.00	40.00	150.62
Whitehaven Morning Sunrisers-	0.00	0.00	50.00

	TOTAL		
	AUG 2025	AUG 2024 (PY)	JAN - AUG, 2025 (YTD)
Winchester	0.00	0.00	194.06
TOTAL	\$1,700.11	\$1,960.71	\$25,484.80

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."

Memphis Area Intergroup Association
3540 Summer Ave., Suite 104
Memphis, TN 38122
901 454-1414 office
memphisarea@bellsouth.net
memphis-aa.org

"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 _____



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

