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

Tradition 9 (short form): A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

Concept IX (long form): 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.

September Events Calendar:

available on JCCOAA.ORG in greater detail

Saturday, September 5th:

9 -10:30am: Jackson County Central Office Steering Committee Meeting
116 E 6th Street, Medford
6 pm: Potluck and Fellowship Hosted by "Saturday Night Live"
First Presbyterian Church
121 W 2nd Street, Phoenix

Sunday, September 6th:

2-5 pm: Bingo Night at MFG -
50/50 Raffle / Snacks - $10 entry fee
1921 Elm Ave, Medford

Wednesday, September 9th:

6 pm: District 16 Monthly General Service
St Vincent De Paul
2424 N Pacific Highway, Medford
See JCCOAA.Org/events to attend via Zoom

Friday-Sunday, September 11th-13th:

6 pm Friday - 12 pm Sunday: Rogue Men's Fall Retreat - $45 registration $90 for RV spots
Rogue.Mens.Retreat@Gmail.com for more info or see the flyer at jcco.org Events page

Saturday, September 12th:

7-9pm: AA Bingo Fundraiser - hosted by Hi-Lo Club Grants Pass Sober Bingo
-Small fee to participate in Bingo, win prizes
-Proceeds benefit the Hi Lo Club (AA Clubhouse)
668 Lincoln Rd. Grants Pass

Friday-Sunday, September 25th-27th:

5 pm Friday - 12 pm Sunday: Sobriety by the Sea 39th Annual Rally - Meetings, Workshops, Speakers
SobrietyByTheSeaRally.com for more info, or see the flyer at jcco.org Events page

Friday, September 25th:

7:00 pm: Birthday Night - Hosted by No Name Group - 456 W Pine Street, Central Point.

Saturday, September 26th:

11 am: Sobriety in the Siskiyous
at the Karuk Housing Authority
$20 Entry Fee (includes lunch !!)
Bingo & Fellowship
1836 Apsuun - Yreka, CA.
6-7 pm: Birthday Nite at Medford Fellowship (Alano Club) - 1921 Elm Ave, Medford

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Wednesday, September 30th:

11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Women's A.A. Potluck Fellowship - hosted by Keepin' It Simple
First United Methodist Church
607 W Main St, Medford

Sunday, September 27th:

11:30 am to 12:30 pm: All 12-steppers Women's Camp Out Planning Meeting - Via Zoom -
Meeting ID : 860 7286 8040
Password : recovery

September Birthdays

Alan V.	**44yrs**
Fran VA.	**41yrs**
Michael S.	**39yrs**
Raul G.	**35yrs**
Laurie H.	**28yrs**
Clare R.	**27yrs**
Brian G.	**12yrs**
Kelly R.	**9yrs**
Melody W.	**9yrs**
Chris G.	**8yrs**
David M.	**8yrs**
Jaime F.	**8yrs**
Alex B.	**7yrs**
Rocky C.	**7yrs**
Sara S.	**7yrs**
Stephen E.	**7yrs**
Albert H.	**5yrs**
Zach V.	**4yrs**

Waitress: Can I start you off with a happy hour margarita?

Me, about to share my unabridged recovery story instead of just ordering a water:

Tradition 9 - Lifeline 2015

The twelve traditions of AA is basically a set of rules or bylaws that restrict and constrain AA to a single focus – individual recovery within a group of other alcoholics.
The Traditions section of The book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is a fun and interesting read because it is filled with "war stories" illustrating how AA got to an understanding of each tradition. The chapter on Tradition Nine is no different. The chapter defines "never be organized" as lacking a power structure, as lacking "vested authority".

To illustrate a normal AA's distrust of authority it alludes to how poorly received is a new chapter member with many years of sobriety elsewhere who "views with alarm for the benefit of AA". What a great little phrase, "viewing with alarm for the benefit of AA". It is so natural for people to assume and attempt to exert authority, especially subtle authority. Tradition Nine wants none of it.

The description of the ninth tradition in Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions is short, just four pages, but it contains a powerful vision. Like most of the Traditions, the Ninth Tradition is a description of what AA does not do. It doesn't collect dues, take attendance, have membership rules, enforce belief, or kick people out. AA relies entirely on an individual's desire to stop drinking as its organizing principle.

This principle is so radical and powerful that it is easy to miss – an idea that is too big to see. It took me a while to understand that really, actually nobody is in charge. There is a strong set of norms, and oral and group traditions, but there really isn't a power structure or a career path. It is all and only about individual alcoholics meeting as a group. The more I understood this, the more I liked AA, and more importantly, the more I trusted AA.

Nobody's going to make you stay sober. Not your mom, your wife, your bishop, or your judge. Not your AA group. Nobody can make you stay sober. We all make a personal decision every day to do the things we need to do to stay sober. We go to meetings. Every single person at a meeting is there because they made a decision to be there (some nudges-from-judges excepted). Meetings feel a certain way because there is so little sense of either coercion or authority. I felt it quickly when I got to AA. People are there because they need and want to be. The Ninth Tradition helps ensure it.

-Rob W.