

THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergruop
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Naples, Florida 34109



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December, 2019

Twelve Tips for a Sober Joyous Holiday Season

Holiday parties without alcohol may still be a dreary prospect for new AAs. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober. Here are some tips:

1. Line up extra AA activities—meetings, speaking, phone answering, other AA service.
2. Entertain AA friends, especially newcomers.
3. Keep AA phone numbers with you at all times—and use them.
4. Find out about special holiday parties, meetings, or other events at groups in our area, and go. If you're shy, take a newer member.
5. Skip drinking occasions you're nervous about. Remember your drinking talent for making excuses? Put it to work for you in sobriety.
6. If you must attend a drinking party, and can't find a fellow AA to come with you, keep some candy handy.
7. You don't have to stay late. Plan for an "important date."
8. Go to church. Any church.
9. Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on reading, letters, walks.
10. Remember, one day at a time. Don't start now to worry about all those "holiday temptations."
11. If you can't give material gifts this year, you *can* give love and service.
12. "Having had a ..." You already know the Twelfth Step!-



CDs Available at A.A. Office

Just in time for Christmas... The CD tells the story of a practicing alcoholic visited by spirits who show him his life: past, present and future as it has been affected by his alcoholism. The result of the visits brings about a change of mind and his desire to seek sobriety through Alcoholics Anonymous. Although, as we know, the subject matter is deadly serious, the approach is full of humor and the joy of sobriety. Carrying the message is done through the music of the Christmas Season. Secular Christmas songs are presented with recovery-related lyrics. The CD is only \$10. All proceeds benefit the Naples Area Intergruop.

STEP TWELVE: 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.

TRADITION TWELVE: 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.

TRADITION TWELVE (long form) And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

CONCEPT TWELVE: The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

***12th Step Prayer:** My spiritual awakening continues to unfold. The help I have received I shall pass on and give to others, Both in and out of the Fellowship. For this opportunity I am grateful. I pray most humbly to continue walking day by day On the road of spiritual progress. I pray for the inner strength and wisdom To practice the principles of this way of life in all I do and say. I need You, my friends, and the program every hour of every day. This is a better way to live.*

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

This is a Checklist for Tradition TWELVE. Reprinted with permission from Service Material from the General Service Office:

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really? 10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and there fore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?



The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held **July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan** with the theme “Love and Tolerance is our Code.” A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.’s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday morning in the Ford Field Stadium. Other meetings, scheduled or informal, will take place throughout the weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit.

Information about Convention registration and housing reservations is available at the Naples AA office.. All necessary information is included in the registration packet. This packet will lists numbers to call for answers to specific questions about housing, the program, etc. This information has been mailed to A.A. groups, offices and contacts around the world and posted on the website.



We’re happy to announce that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., is releasing Meeting Guide 3.0.

Meeting Guide is a mobile app focused on helping people find A.A. meetings and resources near them. The app has been updated to include some new features we’re

pleased to announce:

- Search -- Users will now be able to search for meetings by name or location
- Daily Reflections -- a selection of reflections by and for A.A. members
- More accurate locations for access to local contact information
- Improved user interface -- with a new menu bar and Contact feature.

Meeting Guide is available for iOS and Android smartphones. You can download it for free on the App Store or on Google Play.

“A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” Call for stories to update



The 2019 General Service Conference recommended that the pamphlet “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic—Never Too Late” be updated with a revised introduction; current and inclusive stories; reference to online A.A.; and an update “How Do I Find A.A.?” section.

Email your sharing to: access@aa.org and put “A.A. for the Older Alcoholic” in the subject line of the message. Or, you can mail it to Access Assignment, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2019.

A 1944 Christmas Letter from Bill W. to A.A. Members

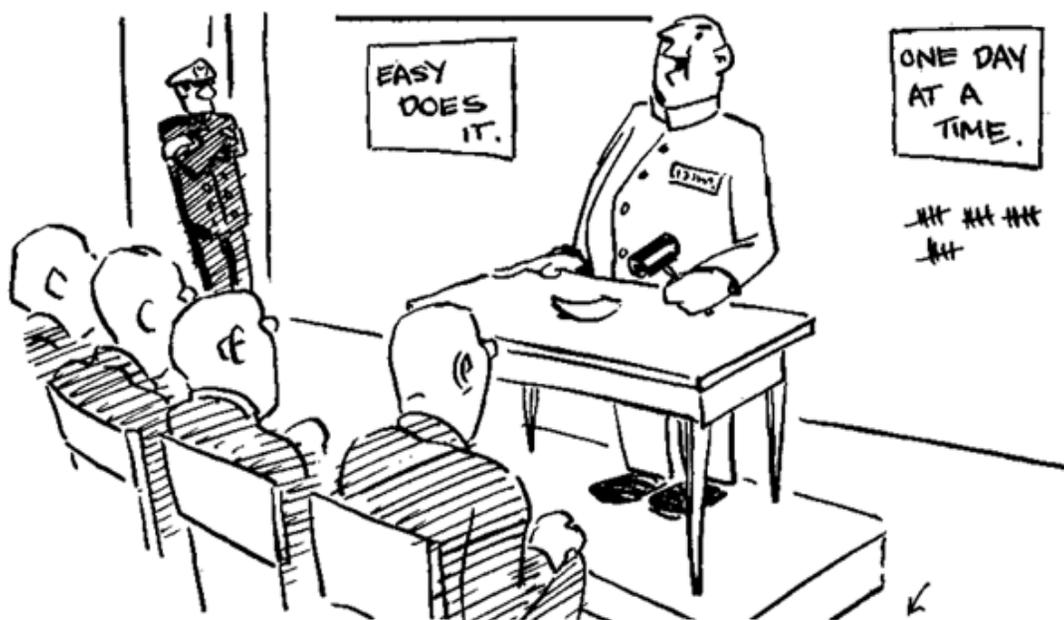
Greetings On Our 10th Christmas, 1944

Yes, it's in the air! The spirit of Christmas once more warms this poor distraught world. Over the whole globe millions are looking forward to that one day when strife can be forgotten, when it will be remembered that all human beings, even the least are loved by God, when men will hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace as they never hoped before But there is another world which is not poor. Neither is it distraught. It is the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, where thousands dwell happily and secure. Secure because each of us, in his own way, knows a greater power who is love, who is just, and who can be trusted. Nor can men and women of AA ever forget that only through suffering did they find enough humility to enter the portals of that New World. How privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before resurrection; that pain is not Knowing it's full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos. Great indeed, our blessings!

And so,-- Merry Christmas to you all-- from the Trustees, from Bobbie and from Lois and me.

Bill Wilson

Anonymity is practiced everywhere!



"My number is 7895641, and I am an alcoholic!"

Letting Go

Letting go does not mean to stop caring;
It means, I can't do it for someone else.

Letting go is not to cut myself off;
It's the realization I can't control another.

Letting go is not to enable;
But allow learning from natural consequences.

Letting go is to admit powerlessness;
Which means the outcome is not in my hands.
Letting go is not to try to change or blame another;
It's to make the most of myself.

Letting go is not to care for, but to care about.

Letting go is not to fix, but to be supportive.

It's not to judge but allow another to be a human being.
Letting go is not to be in the middle arranging for outcomes;
But to allow others to affect their own destinies.

Letting go is not to be protective;
It's to permit another to face reality.

Letting go is not to deny; but to accept.

Letting go is not to nag, scold, or argue;

To search out my own shortcomings and correct them.
Letting go is not to adjust everything to my own desires;
But to take each day as it comes and cherish myself in it.

Letting go is not to criticize and regulate anybody;

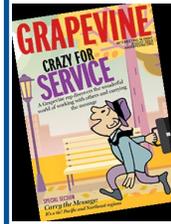
But to try to become what I dream I can be.

Letting go is not to regret the past;

But to grow to live for the future.

Letting go is to fear less and live more.

Author unknown



Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues

www.aagrapevine.org/contribute

District 20 Corrections Picnic

Sunday, December 15, 2019
Vineyards Community Park
6231 Arbor Blvd. W. 34119



Burgers, Dogs and Fixins!

\$5.00

Featured Speaker

Ronny B., Tampa Bay



How Much Anonymity

As a rule, the average newcomer wanted his family to know immediately what he was trying to do. He also wanted to tell others who had tried to help him... As he gained confidence, he felt it right to explain his new way of life to his employer and business associates. When opportunities to be helpful came along, he found he could talk easily about AA to almost anyone.

These quiet disclosures helped him to lose his fear of the alcoholic stigma, and spread the news of AA existence in his community. Many a new man and woman came to AA because of such conversations. Since it is only at the top public level that anonymity is expected, such communications were well within its spirit.

(reprinted with permission from *As Bill Sees It*)

What Is the Purpose of Step Twelve?

“The joy of good living” best represents Step 12 of Alcoholics Anonymous. This step prepares you to embrace all 12 steps as you continue your journey into a life of acceptance and understanding. It also encourages you to help others and to empower them as they discover the benefits of AA.

How Do You Complete Step Twelve?

Give selflessly and ask nothing in return.

Reach out to your fellow alcoholics who are still suffering.

Give selflessly and ask nothing in return.

Begin to practice all 12 steps on a daily basis as a foundation for your new life.

What Are Some Tips for Completing This Step?

Bring the same spirit, love and attitude of helping fellow alcoholics to every aspect of your own life.

Take your problems as they come and transform them into assets or strengths.

Perspective is everything when it comes to continuing to practice all 12 steps in your day-to-day life.

Spiritual growth should be your highest priority.

Abandon the need for self-importance and prestige. It doesn't bring happiness. Instead, learn to find peace within yourself and with whatever life throws your way.

What Are Some Myths About Step 12?

You're fully recovered once you get through all 12 steps.

Recovery is a lifelong process that requires discipline and a change in attitude and perspective.

Only by regular practice of the 12 steps can we continue to live a sober, happy and peaceful life.

The steps become a way of life for recovering alcoholics and a guide to living honestly and compassionately.

Show me an alcoholic whose Big Book is falling apart, and I'll show you an alcoholic who isn't.

**If you cut down on your reading
And you have a slip, you know you have
cut down too much.**

**How many meetings
do you need to stay sober?
Keep cutting back on meetings
and when you drink, you'll know that was
one too many!**

**IF YOU WANT TO
CHANGE WHO YOU ARE,
CHANGE WHAT YOU DO!**



**Merry Christmas
From all of us at
Intergroup/Central Office**

Office Volunteers:

**Judy W., Tona S., Ivan B.,
Peter C., Ken H., Diane B.,
Nikki E., Chuck B., Mary B., Holly
G., Mary Pat B., Charice S.**

Nighttime Phone Volunteers:

**Mike S., Peter C., Nancy N.,
Judy W., Jonathan, Ralph W.,
Chris F., Heather B., Mary B.**

Naples Intergroup Steering Committee:

**Mary B., Jim B., Ken H.,
Peter F., Bill S.**

More on Step Twelve

At what price?

My friend promised when these things were done I would enter upon a new relationship with my Creator; that I would have the elements of a way of living which answered all my problems. Belief in the power of God, plus enough willingness, honesty and humility to establish and maintain the new order of things, were the essential requirements. Simple, but not easy; a **price** had to be paid. It meant destruction of self-centeredness. I must turn in all things to the Father of Light who presides over us all. [Big Book, page 13, line 29]

Awakening as the result of what?

The result, or consequence of taking the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous is a Spiritual Awakening. Please reflect that this step does not say the awakening comes as the result of taking steps 1 through 11, those preceding Step 12. On the contrary, the awakening comes as the result of taking *these* (all of the twelve) steps, *including* Step 12. (If you disagree, that is wonderful. Keep on digesting these steps.)

An exclusive result?

Notice, too, that *the* result of these 12 steps is a **Spiritual Awakening**. We have heard that this awakening is the sole or exclusive result, otherwise our authors would have said "...a..." result. Careful reading of the reading of the Big Book, however, makes clear that there are *many* results of taking the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, even though your Spiritual Awakening may be the cardinal, or most significant, result.

Who/what awakens?

The original draft of the Big Book said the result was a spiritual **experience**. However, *experience* was changed to *awakening*, because the experience was so subtle for most of us that we couldn't really say when it happened, what it was like, or whether it had ever happened at all. Some folk believe that it is the Spirit, the God-head within us that awakens as the result of our taking the steps. Upon deeper reflection, however, we come to doubt that we could have ever gotten into A.A. and through the first 11 steps without the guidance of a Spiritual Power. Therefore, the *Spirit* has not been asleep to awak-

en. **It is we**, who have slept in the presence of the Spirit, that are now quickened to consciousness of the ever-presence of God.

Where do we find God? The awakening concept also clears up the question as to where and how do we *find* God. The answer, is, of course that God was within us from the very beginning.

Reprinted with permission from www.sober.org

The First Noel

The first little drink my sponsor did say would take my
3-year chip away
Be it whiskey or beer—be it red wine or white
I'll end with me puking all through
the night
Little drink, little drink,
The first little drink -
It's an idea that really stinks

Deck the Halls

Deck the dash with beer and wine
D-D-D-D-D-D-W-I
Wreck the car with bongos and line
D-D-D-D-D-D-W-I
Officer, I hear you sing
D-D-D-D-D-D-W-I
Breathe into this little thing
D-D-D-D-D-D-W-I

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

A.A. is where you ought to go
While drinking is in your way
It tells you what you need to know
To get you through the day
It leads you to your Higher Power
When you have gone astray
O come now and join us at A.A.
Come to A.A.
O come now and join us in A.A.

Jingle Bells

Jingling keys, jingling keys,
That is what you'll hear
When you get to rehab
The end of your career
Of alcohol, self-abuse,
Life in disarray
Then you can discover
The healing of A.A.

Source: *The New Reporter, Washington D.C. area Intergroup*

| FINANCES | NOV | YTD |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| Literature/Merchandise | \$3,097 | \$42,57 |
| Group Contributions | 827 | 24,387 |
| AA Birthdays | | 589 |
| Faithful Five | 10 | 220 |
| Anonymous | | |
| <u>Total Income</u> | 3,934 | 25,196 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| Bank/Credit Card Fees | | 955 |
| Travel/Licenses/Permits | | 180 |
| Office Supplies | 93 | 990 |
| Office Repair | | 259 |
| Contributions | | 173 |
| Payroll Net | 1,711 | 18,822 |
| Payroll Tax | | 4,454 |
| Postage | | 70 |
| Printing | 371 | 1,285 |
| Purchases/Lit./Merch. | | 22,875 |
| Insurance | | 567 |
| Rent | 500 | 5,500 |
| Sales Tax | 228 | 2,853 |
| Telephone/www | 665 | 2,850 |
| Utilities | 100 | 1,100 |
| Computer Equipment | 90 | 1,441 |
| Computer Software | 63 | 850 |
| Computer/Maintain | | 100 |
| <u>Total Expenses</u> | 3,835 | 65,642 |
| <u>Net Ordinary Income</u> | 100 | 2,128 |
| Other Income | 5,573 | 9,816 |
| Other Expenses | 9,890 | 11,518 |
| <u>NET OTHER INCOME</u> | -4,317 | -1,702 |
| <u>NET INCOME</u> | \$-4,217 | \$426 |

Thank You to all who contributed to Naples Intergroup/Central Office

Spirituality and Money

"While the work of the group treasurer often involves many details, it is important to remember that the money the treasurer oversees serves a spiritual purpose: it enables each group to fulfill its primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This is the fundamental work of A.A. and to continue it the group must keep its doors open. The group treasurer is an important part of this Twelfth Step work."

SELF-SUPPORT:

Where Money and Spirituality Mix

Naples Area Intergroup

1509-2 Pine Ridge Road
Naples, FL 34109
(50%)

General Service Office

P. O. Box 459
New York, N. Y. 10163
(30%)

District 20

District 20 Treasurer
P.O. Box 2896
Naples, FL 34106
(10%)

Area 15

Lisa D.
PO Box 1784
Pompano Beach, FL 33061
(10%)

Disbursement of a Group's Funds

"After the group's basic needs are met, such as providing for rent, literature, refreshments, and insurance, the group can participate in the financial support of the Fellowship as a whole by sending money to various A.A. service entities: 1) their local Intergroup or Central Office, 2) Area 15 and District 20; and 3) the General Service Office in New York. Many groups provide financial support for their G.S.R.s attending service functions. These entities use contributions in a number of ways, always with the aim of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. *The A.A. Group Treasurer, F-96,*

*Service material prepared by the
General Service Office*

GROUP*/MEETING CONTRIBUTIONS

The six digit number next to the meeting name is their unique AA Registration Number assigned by the General Service Office in New York. This number signifies they are a "Registered Group"...Those meetings listed without a six digit number are **NOT registered with G.S.O.** and therefore not a "Group" (by AA definition), but is a "meeting".

**Please see A.A. pamphlet: "The A.A. Group...where it all begins" P-16*

| <u>Group/Meeting</u> | <u>NOV</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|---|------------|------------|
| 11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482 | 129 | 116 |
| 24 Hour Solution | 0 | 69 |
| Aprendiendo A Vivre, 176467 | 0 | 0 |
| Back To Basics | 0 | 0 |
| Beach Bums 641645 | 0 | 250 |
| Big Book Comes Alive, 710427 | 0 | 60 |
| Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101 | 0 | 0 |
| Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630 | 0 | 54 |
| Big Book Study, 662395 | 0 | 0 |
| Bonita Awareness, 124788..... | 0 | 0 |
| Bonita Banyan, 176463..... | 0 | 560 |
| Bonita Friday Night..... | 193 | 193 |
| Bonita Happy Hour, 670997 | 0 | 2,550 |
| Bonita Men, 654428..... | 0 | 200 |
| Bonita Saturday Night..... | 0 | 0 |
| Bonita Springs Morning, 678493..... | 0 | 1,087 |
| Bonita Springs Women's 169127 | 0 | 1,017 |
| Bonita Springs Step,134588 | 0 | 229 |
| Bonita Unity..... | 200 | 425 |
| Bring Your Own Big Book..... | 0 | 102 |
| Brown Bag, 163924 | 0 | 1,399 |
| Burning Desire, 653891 | 0 | 0 |
| Cake Meeting, 701813..... | 25 | 174 |
| Came to Believe, 615490 | 0 | 0 |
| Candlelight, 606877 | 0 | 0 |
| Comes Of Age | 0 | 0 |
| Common Solutions, 179613..... | 0 | 600 |
| Early Reflections, 653770..... | 0 | 0 |
| Early Riser, 161795 | 0 | 2,325 |
| East Trail, 150873 | 0 | 0 |
| Easy Does It, 156979..... | 0 | 2,550 |
| Free 2 Be, 6700930..... | 0 | 335 |
| Friday Big Book | 0 | 0 |
| Golden Gate, 123819..... | 0 | 0 |
| Good Orderly Direction, 642330 | 0 | 0 |
| Gratitude Hour, 134223 | 0 | 500 |
| Happy Hour, 172923..... | 0 | 0 |
| Jaywalkers, 634271 | 0 | 0 |
| Keep It Positive, 650541 | 0 | 0 |
| Keep It Simple, 651598..... | 0 | 420 |
| Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950..... | 100 | 400 |
| Lil'White House 721896..... | 66 | 182 |
| Living Sober, 605904 | 0 | 0 |
| Living Sober Isle of Capri..... | 0 | 0 |
| Men Of Naples, 634030..... | 0 | 0 |
| Monday Night Men Step 724529..... | 0 | 150 |
| Monday Noon Daily Reflections | 0 | 0 |
| Morning Reflections, 660700 | 0 | 98 |
| Naples Group, 103609 | 0 | 650 |
| Naples Men's, 694322 | 0 | 200 |
| Naples South, 130210 | 0 | 213 |
| Naples Young People, 699130 | 0 | 0 |
| New Dawn, 632504 | 0 | 750 |
| New Women (Thursday noon)..... | 0 | 0 |
| Newcomers Coming Together, 684199..... | 0 | 0 |
| No Compromise, 681260 | 0 | 0 |
| Not A Glum Lot..... | 0 | 100 |
| Nueva Vida..... | 0 | 0 |
| Old Timers, 698956 | 0 | 0 |

| <u>Group/Meeting</u> | <u>NOV</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|---|------------|------------|
| One Day At A Time | 0 | 227 |
| Our Common Welfare..... | 0 | 194 |
| Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323..... | 0 | 0 |
| Pay It Forward, 704772..... | 0 | 1,600 |
| Primary Purpose Marco, 146715..... | 0 | 1,125 |
| Saturday Morning Girlfriends 678117..... | 0 | 176 |
| Saturday Night Live..... | 0 | 50 |
| Spiritual Solutions, 720796..... | 0 | 250 |
| Start Where You Are..... | 0 | 0 |
| Step By Step..... | 0 | 200 |
| Step Into Life..... | 30 | 30 |
| Sunday Night Speakers, 665079 | 0 | 196 |
| Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959 | 0 | 0 |
| Sunset Serenity, 654981 | 0 | 0 |
| Survivor's, 157268 | 35 | 85 |
| SW 239 BID..... | 0 | 0 |
| Swamp Group, 672733 | 0 | 0 |
| Tables of Naples, 147671 | 0 | 306 |
| The Solution Big Book Study Group 632503..... | 0 | 0 |
| Third Tradition,143298 | 0 | 60 |
| Three Legacies, 679400 | 0 | 0 |
| Thursday New Women | 0 | 400 |
| Unity Monday Noon Step..... | 49 | 451 |
| Unity Step | 0 | 56 |
| Veranda..... | 0 | 80 |
| Walk The Steps With Women, 701923 | 0 | 0 |
| Wanderers, Ave Maria | 0 | 0 |
| We Care, Bonita, 617011 | 0 | 305 |
| Wednesday Step St. Johns | 0 | 85 |
| Where Are We | 0 | 0 |
| Women's Spirit..... | 0 | 0 |
| Women's Step,159957 | 0 | 0 |

AA Groups/Meetings listed here are those which are either registered as a Group at the AA General Service Office in New York, or, have contributed financially to the Naples Area Intergroup.



An alcoholic dies and goes to heaven. Saint Peter greets him at the gate and says: "where do you want to reside?" "Don't know, what have you got to offer?", the drunk says. Saint Peter opens the first door. Inside there are lots of candles burning and women dressed in black praying the rosary. "Who are these people?" "Oh, these are the Catholics." Drunk says: "Not for me, what else you got?" Saint Peter opens the second door. Inside are all these men kneeling on little rugs, bowing, and praying in a foreign language. Drunk asks: "Who are these people?" "Muslims", Saint Peter replied. Again, the drunk says: "not my type, what else you got? Saint Peter opens the last door. As he does, cigarette smoke comes billowing out, there are coffee cups everywhere, people are laughing and telling stories. The drunk asks St Peter, "who are these people?" Saint Peter replies: "Don't know, they won't tell me!"

A.A. A Religious Organization?

"Newcomers are approaching A.A. at the rate of tens of thousands yearly. They represent almost every belief and attitude imaginable. We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion. In A.A. we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light. Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of A.A., so long as he or she so declares."

—Bill W. (A.A. Grapevine, July 1965)

A misconception about Alcoholics Anonymous is that it is a religious organization. Since A.A. groups often rent space in churches, attending an A.A. meeting in a church basement can reinforce that impression, and the possibility of hearing a prayer at the end of a meeting can fur-

Yet A.A.'s pioneering members realized from the beginning that their sole purpose was to help people gain sobriety, and they went to great lengths to ensure the broadest membership among all who suffer from alcoholism. A.A. is a Fellowship, a community of like-minded sufferers who have found a way out of a hopeless condition.

We came to A.A. out of desperation our shared suffering and our shared solution. In our meetings people from all walks of life come together with a common purpose. Some members return to their religious roots, others find different spiritual paths. Some may find this "God of their understanding," yet never become involved with organized religion. Still others make the A.A. group itself their higher power.

But one thing was sure — whatever our backgrounds, our beliefs or our lack of belief—our drinking had gotten out of hand.

We needed help

Alcoholism can be a lonely affair. Often, we drank to keep the pain of life at arm's length, and then, when the pain overran us, we drank to wash it away. For some of us, things didn't seem so bleak. We felt we could control our drinking — except when we couldn't. We recognized that our lives would be a lot less chaotic if we could stop drinking, but we didn't know how. We tried different strategies — drinking beer only, not drinking on an empty stomach, having just two drinks a night — but sooner or later we ended up drunk again, wondering what went wrong.

And it wasn't just ourselves we were hurting. Our families, friends, employers and even complete strangers began to pull away from us, wary of our denials and skeptical of our many lies and pledges to stay sober.

"I knew I was an alcoholic before I came to A.A. I had attended management training courses on how to identify drug and alcohol problems in my employees — and I clearly fit the description. In addition, I am trained as a scientist and an engineer. The objective evidence was all around me — empty gin bottles, webs of lies, damaged relationships and self-loathing. I had also tried unsuccessfully to quit drinking on my own for several years, so I knew that I needed help."

The Birthday Club

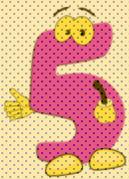
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics who still suffer. Envelopes available at Central Office or from your Intergroup Representative.



| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Ron P. | 49 years |
| Ron L. | 40 years |
| Don M. | 39 years |
| Dennis F. | 35 years |
| Rad W. | 34 years |
| Jackie T. F. | 33 years |
| Judy W. | 33 years |
| Steve K. | 27 years |
| Peter F. | 24 years |
| Bill S. | 17 years |
| Mary B. | 17 years |
| Laura T. F. | 3 years |



Faithful Fivers Needed



2019 Faithful Fiver Club

Ron L., Mary B., James B., Theresa R., Judy W., Kathryn Mc., Bill S.

We are members of A.A. who want the hand of A.A. always to be there in the Naples, Florida area.

It's easy to join!

Use a Check or Credit Card to contribute monthly, or one time.

Stop by the Central Office or Telephone the Central Office for a one time Credit Card charge.

\$5.00 per month or \$60.00 per year!

Your membership directly supports 12Step work in District 20 and Central Office Operations.

District 20

(Collier County, the portion of Monroe County bordered by Collier and Miami-Dade Counties, and the portion of Hendry County below the northernmost boundary of Collier County.)

District 20 Officers:

Chairman:
Robert C., 784-8514
chairdistrict20aa@gmail.com
Alt. Chair:
Peter C.
pete.curtner@yahoo.com
Treasurer:
Mary B., 777-8066
mbrown8869@gmail.com
Registrar:
Jill M., 309-3879
Secretary:
Dianna M., 248-6565
diannamusse@gmail.com

Service Committees:

Treatment/Accessibilities

Robert C.
treatment@district20aa.org
Business meeting the first
Thursday of each month at
7 p.m., 24 Hour Club

Corrections

Jeff K., 776-5673
kepkajeffery@yahoo.com
Business meeting the second
Tuesday of each month at
5:30 p.m., 24 Hour Club

Public Information/CPC

Dawn L., 253-5481
Business meeting the first
Wednesday of each month at
7pm, 24 Hour Club

Grapevine/Literature

Steve K., 430-9110
Business meeting the third
Tuesday of each month at
5:30p.m., 24 Hour Club

Archives

Laurel B., 451-0095
naplesboff@hotmail.com
Business meeting 3rd Saturday
@ 24 Hour Club at 11am

Current Practices

Jerry E., 776-6767
jeddleman@aol.com

District 20 Website

Eric H., 738-8871

The Courier is published monthly by the *Naples Area Intergroup of Alcoholic Anonymous* with an office located at 1509-2 Pine Ridge Road, Naples, FL 34109-2198. This publication is by, for, and about the Fellowship of AA. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or The *Naples Area Intergroup*. Quotations and artwork from AA literature are reprinted with permission from AA World Service, Inc., and/or The AA Grapevine, Inc..

District 20

Business Meeting:

Last Thursday of the
Month, 7pm
New Attitudes Club
4133 Tamiami Trail E.
(Lakewood & E 41)
Behind Speedway Gas

Treatment Commitments

DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER

Every day except
Wednesday
7:00 p.m.

John G. 413-777-2065
jwg1953@gmail.com

NAPLES COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Jim P., 572-2075
jimparadise.sr@gmail.com

WILLOUGH

Sunday, Monday and Thursday
7:30pm
Ken C., kenknauf@comcast.net
J.C., 253-3602
superioryacht07@gmail.com

HAZELDEN

Monday, 7:00pm
Tom H., 777-1430
tomhigh@me.com

BRIDGING THE GAP

Melissa B.
720-982-1852
John B.
537-5862

MONTHLY NAPLES INTERGROUP MEETING Central Office 1509-2 Pine Ridge Rd.

(next to 24 Hour Club)

First Wednesday of
month at 7:00pm

Area 15; Panel 69

(South Florida, Bahamas, US and British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Maarten, and Cayman Islands)

Delegate: Shirley P.
delegate@area15aa.org

Alternate: Tom W.
altdelegate@area15aa.org

Chair: Cary W.
chair@area15aa.org

Treasurer: Lisa D.
PO Box 1784
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33061
treasurer@area15aa.org

Registrar: Wayne H.
registrar@area15aa.org

Secretary: Kevin D.
PO Box 842
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secretary@area15aa.org

Naples Intergroup

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Vice Chair:
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Secretary:
Peter F., 877-7450
pflemin1@aol.com

Treasurer:
Ken H., 963-7820
kenahelton@gmail.com

Members at Large:

Jill L.
Ralph W.
Rhett A.

www
Mary B., 777-8066
mbrown8869@gmail.com

Office Manager:

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Naples, Florida 34109-2198
naplesintergroup@yahoo.com
Phone (239) 262-6535
Fax (239) 262-0560
www.aanaples.org

Office Hours:

Monday 9am to 4pm
Tuesday 9am to 4pm
Wednesday 9am to 4pm
Thursday 9am to 4pm
Friday 9am to 4pm
Saturday 9am to 4pm
Sunday CLOSED

Office Volunteers:

Judy W., Tona W.,
Ivan B., Peter C.,
Ken H., Diane B.,
Nikki E., Chuck B.,
Mary B., Holly G.,
Mary Pat B., Charice
...and loyal Substitutes

After Hours Phone

Mary B., 777-8066