

THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup
1509-2 Pine Ridge Road
Naples, Florida 34109



MARCH

239-262-6535
naplesintergroup@yahoo.com
www.aanaples.org

March, 2020

Carry the Message Day!

FOOD ~ FUN ~ FELLOWSHIP

“Service Keeps Us Sober”

Join us for a fun and informative day with representation from all Naples Area AA Service Committees: Corrections, Treatment/Accessibilities, Public Information/Cooperation With the Professional Community, Grapevine, Archives and District 20, Naples Intergroup/Central Office and AlAnon.

When: Saturday, March 21st, 2020

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Where: 24 Hour Club, 1509 Pine Ridge Road
Inside & Out- Tents in the Parking Lot

What: Workshops, Presentations, Raffle, FOOD

All AAs are encouraged to attend. Newcomers will learn, and old-timers will be reminded of our Third Legacy—Service

Questions? Contact District 20 Chair, Robert Crowe
Chairdistrict20aa@gmail.com. or (239) 784-8514 or
Naples Intergroup/Central Office: (239) 262-6535

STEP THREE: *“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”*

TRADITION THREE: *“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”*

TRADITION THREE (long form): “Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.”

CONCEPT THREE : “As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional ‘Right of Decision.’”

3rd Step Prayer: “God, I offer myself to Thee- To build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always! Amen”

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangement?



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.

Third Step

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God *as we understood Him*. It was able to admit and accept my powerlessness and unmanageability in step one, which threw me into practicing faith and open will and my life over to a power greater than any human power, a God of my life. After all, both the Big Book and 12 & 12 repeatedly state the fact that my “human resources, as marshaled by [my] will, were not sufficient, they failed utterly” (Big Book, p. 45). Clearly beyond any physical aid of my own twisted thinking, I found that all I need to do is engage in yet another surrender manifested by the level of my willingness to apply these principles. In order to better understand this step, I had to find out what my will and what my life is. I found that my will is my brain, how I think, how I perceive the world I’m in, for the day I’m in. My unaided brain always looks at the world as a really ask patterns change, for the most part, from fear-based to a loving, solution-based thought life; after all, “my thought life will be placed on a much higher plane when [my] thinking is cleared of [selfish] wrong motives” (Big Book, p 86). I also learned that my God-directed willingness directly contributes to turning over my life to this Power. My life is how I function in the day I’m in; how I’m treating you, how my outlook for the day can be one of excitement of the prospect of what God has planned next, rather than dreading the day, sitting in fear. Living my life well requires my willingness to apply the principles in the first three steps, for “it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God—or, if you like, a Higher Power—into our lives” (12 & 12, p 34). All I need to do is open the door of willingness; I know that self wants to shut the door, but my life always has, and continues to improve, when I “again pick up the key of willingness” (12 & 12, p. 35). I know this is a “we” program, but the print tells me that the level of my willingness to practice these principles is something “which only the individual can do. All by himself, and in the light of his own circumstances [usually bad] he needs to develop the quality of willingness . . . he is the only one who can make the decision to exert himself” (12 & 12, p 40). My sponsor can’t do this for me, nor can the group—it’s up to me and my Creator. Given the light of my circumstances, which are usually dire, I am all in—I want to continuously develop the quality of willingness as if my life depended on it, because

Greg S., Prescott AZ, *Conscious Contact Newsletter*

***The Twelve Traditions...* OUR KEYS TO SURVIVAL and GROWTH**

IN AA, EACH ONE OF US HAS TWO PRIME OBJECTIVES. We want to survive and we want to grow. While we cannot demand happiness, we know this to be the only way that it may be achieved. In any case, growth in image and likeness of the Creator is our primary purpose and the main reason for our existence.

For AA as a whole our objectives are exactly same. AA must survive and then it must grow in maturity and finally it must carry its message of hope and joy to those who still don't yet know.

That is what AA's Twelve Traditions are about. They are first concerned with our survival as a fellowship and then with our ability to grow in maturity and in numbers. **Based** on vast experience, they suggest to us how this can best be done.

With every passing year, I find myself more and more confident that AA will always survive and grow, no matter what perils and temptations the future may hold.

This I believe. . .because in following the Twelve Steps, each of us will find the right way, and in following the Twelve Traditions, all of us will find the right destiny.

AA HISTORY IN MARCH:

1940 A.A.'s FIRST HEADQUARTERS Works Publishing moved from Neward N.J. to 30 Vesey St. in lower Manhattan.

1941 A.A. MARCHES WEST A.A. goes beyond Ohio, meetings started in Chicago, New Orleans, Houston, Topeka, Fort Worth, Tucson and Honolulu. ***The Saturday Evening Post*** publishes Jack Anderson's 7,500 word article about A.A. spurring a dramatic increase in Big Book sales.

1944 WOMAN'S PRISON GROUP MEETS First women's prison group meets at Clinton Farms in Clinton, N.J.

1947 FIRST MEETING IN ENGLAND American Grace O. contacts 5 Londoners and meets at the Dorchester Hotel

1958 SINGAPORE Dick D., writes to G.S.O. that the Singapore group has 23 members.

1966 ECUADOR Three groups start in Cueca, Guayaquil and Lima.

1974 URUGUAY First meeting in Montevideo.

1978 MILESTONE FOR AA GRAPEVINE Circulation of the Fellowship's "meeting in print" reaches 100,000.

1992 A.A. GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE MOVES After 20 years on Park Avenue South, G.S.O relocates to 475 Riverside Drive, a 19 story building built by the Rockefeller family.

1995 FIRST ASIA/OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING Attending delegates from: Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

2012 50 YEARS OF A.A. IN BARBADOS Convention attended by more than 166 participants.

2013 FRENCH BIG BOOK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS.

2015 JAPAN CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY.

2017 CUBA GROWS The 18th General Service Conference of A.A. in Cuba is held in Santa Clara, Cuba. A.A. continues to grow despite lacking basic necessities such as a phone line.

Our Primary Purpose

We may hear a lot in meetings, or usually we will hear it said in the readings passed out before discussion actually begins, "Our primary purpose is to STAY SOBER, and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety." This doesn't necessarily have to mean working with a newcomer, or even another alcoholic. It can simply mean another human being on the planet.

This has been a fast moving, rather chaotic time in my life. My identical twin passed away of alcoholism four months ago, and just last week one of my closest friends lost her husband to cancer, and another friend lost her daughter to an overdose. This could be a morbid time in my life, but as with everything else, I have learned to lean on my Higher Power, and be of utmost service to those around me. In fact, everything in my sobriety has trained me for that. I was told early on to be of service. Of course in the beginning that meant setting up chairs or making coffee or holding a commitment like secretary, treasurer or literature person. But gone by, that's transitioned into anything I can do in ANY situation – i.e. opening a door and keeping it open if a frail person is coming in behind me or someone with parcels in their hands or a small child needs assistance. Opening and holding open a door is a metaphor. In traffic it can be as simple as letting someone's car in at a congested intersection or busy freeway lane. In a parking lot it can be having patience as someone has a difficult time getting in or out of a parking place causing you to have to wait as they maneuver. Sobriety doesn't just mean abstaining from taking a drink or some other mood-altering chemical. It is the peace that comes with the serenity of being in God's world, not mine. In God's time – not mine. An experience I had recently involved getting to someone far away – at peak traffic time. A friend in an unimaginably difficult situation needed me two hours away in a part of the state I did not know at all. I prayed to God and somehow got where I needed to be, and still made a scheduled flight out of the agonizing that I couldn't possibly get to my friend in time, and get my own needs met, I prayed, and somehow confidence NOT to agonize, but just GO, and DO, what I needed to do. Then commitments that I had in another city went exactly right. What used to happen, to my now simply happens because I recognize that God is in charge. Now I realize it as it is happening. So my Primary Purpose remains that I simply do what I'm supposed to do, be what I'm supposed to be, and let God take care of the rest. Often that means it's simply to help another person.

Stephanie Voss, Prescott AZ,
Conscious Contact Newsletter

Concept III -The Right of Decision

The right of decision means that our A.A. trusted servants are to decide how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each problem or situation as it arises. The Concept states that we have this right of decision at each level of service. That is to say that when we are elected to a service job, we are given the responsibility to both represent the body that elects us while also making our decisions based on what we think is best for A.A. as a whole.

Here are two situations calling for the representative to exercise this right of decision.

First: When presented with an agenda of topics the representative decides which of the topics to bring to the group or committee they represent. We select the topics, sometimes out of a long list, that we think would be most pertinent to our group.

Second: After taking our group's conscience, we then carry this to the next service level where we act as our group's representative. Talking and listening to others outside our own group who have additional knowledge and information is always important. When a matter comes to a vote at this next level, it is important to consider both our group's viewpoint and to be open to voting independently of it. By listening carefully at all levels we are able to make a more fully informed decision. Additionally, after voting we may be presented with still another opinion that changes how we will vote. We need always be ready to change a vote if there is good reason to do so.

If we vote differently from the conscience of the group we represent, it is important also that we return to our group to explain to them why we did so. I offer an example of right of decision from my own experience. At the time that I was representing my home group at a service meeting as their representative. I was asked to take a matter to my group, which I did. When I returned to the next service meeting more information was presented. It changed my view on the topic and my vote was different from what my group had decided. At the next business meeting of my home group I explained why I voted as I did. Some members of my group agreed with my action and others didn't. As a trusted servant we must always make a fully informed decision based on what is best for A.A. as a whole. As Concept III states, this is what makes us trusted servants rather than just group messengers.



August 6-9, 2020

www.64.floridastateconvention.com

Hyatt Regency, Jacksonville

www.jackdonville.hyatt.com

REGISTER ON LINE

Info ? John K.

jkrantz@jkrantz.com

Sisters By The Sea



Spring Into Action



**Please Join Us for our annual kickoff at the
United Church 320 N Barfield, Marco Island on
Friday ,March 6th for Dinner and a Speaker
Doors open at 6pm, Dinner,Speaker 8:00pm
Tickets \$10**

**You can mail ck for tickets and I will mail the
tickets back.**

**Sisters By The Sea
1024 Anglers Cove Unit 203
Marco Island, Fl. 34145
Limited Seating**

Holly D.

**For scholarship funding for Treatment and 1/2 way
House participation for the upcoming conference on June
19, 20,21 2020 held at the Hilton Naples
Catered By Blake Becker And his Sponsorship Team**

RAILROADED

Talked into service, a reluctant teen meets the AAs who convince him to stick around.

MY sobriety date is April 7, 1986. I was 17 years old in 1986. I'd had my first drink at age 8 and started to use drugs at 9. I now have a life I believe would have never happened if it weren't for Alcoholics Anonymous.

When I first came in, it was my age to feel accepted and something so big. I went to a but was introduced to AA the were no adolescent centers at

I didn't have a desire to stop thought that I would stay so-time. My counselor, for whom grateful, was sober in AA for two hours a day with me, more than any counselor other clients. Trust me, I did- She made me read three sto- "Too Young," "A Teen-Ager's

"Freedom From Bondage." She explained the malady of the disease and she explained to me that I was there because I had a disease. She also said that if I could get sober and stay sober I would be able to help many more young people who were going to come to AA.

When I left to go home, I had no intention to stay sober or help anyone. I went back to a small town in the Midwest, where I was introduced to a new AA group. I wasn't welcomed very well because I am dually addicted. I would share about both addictions and they would share that they were "real alcoholics." I didn't read that part in the Big Book about a real alcoholic. I was asked to leave that group--I was physically removed--and was told not to come back until I could talk about my alcoholism.

Knowing what I have learned today about the Traditions, I wish someone had taken me aside and explained Tradition One and Tradition Two. I didn't come back to another AA meeting until almost eight months later, when I moved to the Central Valley in California. I met my sponsor a few weeks later. God put a young punk kid and a grown man who didn't have a son together. For the next 20 years that man showed me the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. He had me get a service sponsor for the Twelve Concepts for world service. But I didn't like AA for over a year and wouldn't admit that I was an alcoholic for that period of time.

What happened was that I was railroaded into being an alternate general service rep when I was sober for a year and a half. I was 19. At an assembly, a lady who was a district committee member gave a report, during which she said that she sobered up at 20 years old and had 10 years of sobriety. Again, God put the exact person in my life. I didn't understand anything they were talking about. All I knew was that there was a lady who'd gotten sober young, and I was amazed. When I left that weekend I had the desire to stay sober and I was ready to admit that I was an alcoholic. In fact, I wanted what she had and I got the bug for general service. I came back home with a fire that hasn't left me. I was on a mission.

The day my counselor said to me that I could help so many young people if I stayed sober rings true every day of my life. I got involved in my home group, and started speaking at schools and at youth corrections facilities and juvenile institutions.

I still have the energy and the love for AA that was given to me by my sponsor, who passed away almost three years ago with over 30 years of sobriety. At the age of 41, I'm now almost 24 years sober and still involved in service.



difficult for someone to want to be a part of treatment center first, first night there. There the time.

drinking and never ber for any period of I will be eternally seven years. She spent which was three times spent with any of the n't want to be there! ries in the Big Book: Decision" and

Shaun G., Manteca, CA

With permission, The Grapevine Inc., July, 2010

FINANCES**FEB****YTD****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	4,098	10,179
Group Contributions	998	3,331
AA Birthdays	190	190
Faithful Five		10
Anonymous	50	50
Total Income	5,336	13,760

Expenses

Bank/Credit Card Fees	77	185
Travel/Licenses/Permits	30	30
Office Supplies	268	373
Office Repair		441
Contributions		
Payroll Net	1,711	3,422
Payroll Tax		1,113
Postage	76	76
Printing	371	371
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	2,059	5,390
Insurance		
Rent	500	1,000
Sales Tax	681	681
Telephone/www	197	394
Utilities	100	200
Computer Equipment		
Computer Software	13	90
Computer/Maintain		
Total Expenses	6,161	13,766
Net Ordinary Income	-825	-6
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
NET OTHER INCOME		
NET INCOME	-825	-6

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%)

District 20

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

General Service Office

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

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>FEB</u>	<u>YTD</u>
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482	0	0
24 Hour Solution	0	0
Apreniendo A Vivre, 176467	0	0
Back To Basics	0	0
Beach Bums 641645	250	250
Big Book Comes Alive, 710427	0	150
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101	0	0
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630	0	0
Big Book Study, 662395	0	0
Bonita Awareness, 124788	0	0
Bonita Banyan, 176463	0	180
Bonita Friday Night	0	0
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997	352	352
Bonita Men, 654428	0	0
Bonita Morning	0	408
Bonita Saturday Night	0	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493	0	0
Bonita Springs Women's 169127	0	0
Bonita Springs Step, 134588	40	40
Bonita Unity	0	0
Bring Your Own Big Book	0	0
Brown Bag, 163924	0	0
Cake Meeting, 701813	0	0
Came to Believe, 615490	0	0
Candlelight, 606877	0	0
Comes Of Age	0	0
Common Solutions, 179613	200	200
Early Reflections, 653770	0	0
Early Riser, 161795	0	224
East Trail, 150873	0	0
Easy Does It, 156979	0	0
Free 2 Be, 6700930	0	81
Friday Big Book	0	0
Golden Gate, 123819	0	0
Good Orderly Direction, 642330	0	0
Gratitude Hour, 134223	0	0
Happy Hour, 172923	0	0
Jaywalkers, 634271	0	0
Keep It Positive, 650541	0	0
Keep It Simple, 651598	0	0
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950	100	100
Lil'White House 721896	0	0
Living Sober, 605904	0	0
Living Sober Isle of Capri	0	0
Men Of Naples, 634030	0	0
Monday Night Men Step 724529	0	0
Monday Noon Daily Reflections	0	24
Morning Reflections, 660700	0	0
Naples Group, 103609	0	0
Naples Men's, 694322	0	200
Naples South, 130210	0	0
Naples Young People, 699130	0	0
New Dawn, 632504	0	600
New Women (Thursday noon)	0	0
Newcomers Coming Together, 684199	0	0
No Compromise, 681260	0	0
Not A Glum Lot	0	0
Nueva Vida	0	0
Old Timers, 698956	0	0

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>YTD</u>
One Day At A Time	0	174
Our Common Welfare	0	0
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323	0	0
Pay It Forward, 704772	0	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715	0	0
Saturday Morning Girlfriends 678117	0	0
Saturday Night Live	0	0
Spiritual Solutions, 720796	0	0
Start Where You Are	0	0
Step By Step	0	0
Step Into Life	0	30
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079	0	0
Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959	0	0
Sunset Serenity, 654981	0	0
Survivor's, 157268	0	0
SW 239 BID	0	0
Swamp Group, 672733	0	76
The Solution Big Book Study Group 632503	0	0
Third Tradition, 143298	0	0
Three Legacies, 679400	0	0
Thursday New Women	0	0
Unity Monday Noon Step	96	157
Unity Step	0	0
Veranda	0	0
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923	0	0
Wanderers, Ave Maria	0	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011	0	106
Wednesday Step St. Johns	0	0
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.

The Politics of Gratitude...

Sober aspirations have landed me very far from the AA community that nurtured my hope in early sobriety. Now middle-aged, I am both student and teacher, living in a college town eight months a year, where I'm dependent for serenity and sobriety upon an AA community that is overall much younger than the groups I've attended the past ten years.

Looking upon these young people, I remember how, by the time I was their age, weekend hangovers were a normal part of living high. In the sixties, catching a buzz was a political statement. Tuning in, turning on, and dropping out was like in the flow. Cheap wine and weed were natural. Religions used them to get the ego out of the way and get next to the Great Spirit. My college friends joked about "getting merged" the night before.

If anyone around me had known enough to suggest that my "anti-establishment" drinking and drugging was symptomatic of a serious problem, I would have told them the problem was theirs. They were too straight and too uptight to let it all hang out. If it feels good, do it.

When I dragged myself into my first meeting ten years ago, feeling good was long enough gone that I would have settled for the financial and marital trouble and the physical sickness to go away. Others' war stories provided a way to laugh at my problems and perversity. But when speakers got to the part about how grateful they were for all the blessings and blah, blah, blah. . . I'd tune out. Maybe things were going okay for them, but if they had to face my problems and live in my skin, their promises would ring a little thin.

When I moved to this college town recently and listened to the tenor of these young peoples' concerns, I realized that I'd not thought about that part of my story for a long time. Memory kindly edits the pain and bitterness of our lives. But the truth about myself, however uncomfortable, is my only hope for continued sobriety, growth, serenity, and for life itself. My last drunk brought me too close to dying; and the next one sometimes haunts me like the bottomless hole I was lost in when I got here.

Overly obsessed with work the first semester back at college, I've worked little more of my program than praying and attending meetings regularly. And I could see myself growing impatient with twenty-year-old alcoholics who'd claim that being sober was okay, but they couldn't find much else to be grateful about.

I wanted to grab them by the shoulders and shake them, shouting, "Don't you realize what an incredible gift you've received? You get to spend the most exciting, energetic, adventurous years of your life sober! You get to see and feel and remember it all!" I wanted to tell them that they'd never have to live with the regret of trashing the opportunities that come almost too easily to people in their twenties. For most of my life, all I had was good potential--something people gauge with sharply decreasing interest as you age.

Maybe there is some residual grace from working the program steadily for a few years; or maybe my obsessiveness with work saved me. But I didn't embarrass myself with the "Don't you know how lucky you are?" lecture. A few angry deacons came to mind whenever I got ready to set somebody straight about how they ought to work their program.

The problem was that I was not working mine. And my attitude was strikingly similar to the way I saw things back in the sixties: I knew what the world and everybody in it needed to get on the right track; but protest was the only form of expression I understood. Being opposed to the way you are comes more naturally to me, even sober, than live and let live.

Still, it is baffling to feel self-righteous and angry about wanting others to be happy and grateful. Equally mysterious is how these young people sound short of hope and gratitude for themselves, but provide this sixties burnout some much needed hope for the future. During my passionate second and third years of sobriety, older members encouraged me to share my fears, doubts, and insecurities; then thanked me for giving them something--I never understood what. But I'm beginning to.

The social, political, and spiritual milieu from which young people emerge today is much more precarious than the decade of altered consciousness, protest, and demonstrations that were my pinnacle years of drinking and drugging. Back then, booze, drugs, and protest seemed to be working for some higher purpose. The government could have its wars and pass its laws; but give me a few joints and a bottle of wine and I could chart the people's way into a more promising future.

No such fantasies delude young people today. For all our increased access to information, the world is a harder, crueler, more impossible place to survive. The millennium about which Bill W. wrote in the beginning of Tradition Ten is with us still, and ever more insistent: "We live in the imminent possibility of a fresh holocaust to determine how men shall be governed, and how the products of nature and toil shall be divided among them."

Having arrived in AA sick, and emotionally and spiritually barren, I felt doubly defeated and guilty for having talked change so zealously and having accomplished less than nothing. I've needed this many years of recovery to grudgingly admit that, despite the addictive, self-destructive path humankind seems fated to follow, some unreasonable hope still burns in my heart. After all, if someone like me--with only intellectual conceit guiding him--could turn his life around, the world must also stand some chance at recovery.

Today there is simply the upwelling of the spirit of life that was missing all my years drinking. As much as I'd like to transplant this gratitude artery into the hearts of young people, or sometimes shake it into them, I know (without knowing how or why) that it is not mine to give away. All I can share are the things I've done to arrive at this faith and acceptance. In return I receive from newcomers a reminder that what I've done won't keep me sober and growing today. Last week's Twelfth Step work is as useful as last generation's protest.

I'm overdue giving back to the program. I've been living too many months on gratitude and promises stretched too thin. But what I've really been stalling and stammering around is this: As much as I am disgruntled with ungrateful young people, I am positively disconcerted by those who stay and work the program hard enough that, at half my age, they appear equally or more mature than me. Looks like it's time for this deacon to work another Fourth and Fifth Step on envy.

Anonymous, York Harbor, Maine
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The Birthday Club

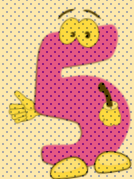
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics 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
Jim B.	38 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.	18 years
Mary B.	18 years
Laura T. F.	3 years
Bree F.	3 years



Faithful Fivers Needed



2020 Faithful Fiver Club

Welcome Jim B.

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

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., 784-7725

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**

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., 269-8251

Business meeting the second 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

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..

Contributions from our readers are**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)

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delegate@areal5aa.org

Alternate: Tom W.
altdelegate@areal5aa.org

Chair: Cary W.
chair@areal5aa.org

Treasurer: Lisa D.
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Secretary: Kevin D.
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West Palm Beach, FL
33402
secretary@areal5aa.org

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Vice Chair:

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Secretary:

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Treasurer:

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

Office Manager:

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Fax (239) 262-0560
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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.,
Gary F., Eric S.,
Ken H., Diane B.,
Nikki E., Opportunity
Dave K, Pat S.
Dan J., Charice S.
...and loyal Substitutes