

# THE COURIER

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

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

April, 2019



## History of the Pink Can:

A Summary Based On Pink Cans: Small Change Brings Big Results (p. 8). Box 4-5-9: News and Notes from the General Service Office of A. A. Vol. 52, No. 5 / October-November 2006.

The Pink Can idea seemed to have originated in the Northern California Area in 1957. The purpose was to provide sufficient funds to purchase literature for expanding work in prisons. Individual contributions, although quite helpful, were not enough to keep up with the expanding responsibilities of the local Hospitals & Institutions Committees. Someone came up with the idea of passing a can during meetings and requesting spare change. It was explained that all monies collected would be used to buy literature for alcoholics in hospitals and prisons. In order to make the

can "stand out," a decision was made to paint the can pink. In short time, pink cans started appearing on literature tables and were being passed around at various meetings.

Pink Cans are found at some meetings, but what are they? Pink Cans are the beginning of a twelfth step journey that ends up in the hands of an incarcerated individual in the form of a Big Book or other conference approved literature. All the money that members of AA place into the Pink Can is used to purchase literature. Once the literature is purchased our volunteers, who bring AA meetings into the prisons and jails, hand them out to the inmates thus completing the journey of the Pink Can. The Pink Can money is never used for anything else. Thank you so much to everyone who donates to the Pink Can.

If you like rewarding twelve-step work then the Corrections Committee is for you. The Corrections Committee provides AA conference approved literature, through group donations (e.g. Pink Can fund drive) for incarcerated men and women in our area. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm. At the 24 Hour Club. The only requirement is one year of sobriety.

## WANTED...

**AA MEMBERS WITH GOOD, STRONG VOICES AS WELL AS SINGERS, TO PARTICIPATE IN AN AA PROJECT TO BENEFIT AA.**

**CALL OR EMAIL: JIM B. (239) 300-5891; mabopx3a@gmail.com**

**OR CENTRAL OFFICE: (239) 262-6535; naplesintergroup@yahoo.com**

**STEP FOUR:** “Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

**TRADITION FOUR:** “Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.”

**TRADITION FOUR (Long Form) :** “With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.”

**CONCEPT FOUR:** “Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.”

*4th Step Prayer:* Dear God, It is I who has made my life a mess. I have done it, but I cannot undo it. My mistakes are mine and I will begin a searching and fearless moral inventory. I will write down my wrongs But I will also include that which is good. I pray for the strength to complete the task.

## TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

This is a Checklist for Tradition Four  
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1. Do I insist that there are only a few right ways of doing things in AA?
2. Does my group always consider the welfare of the rest of AA? Of nearby groups? Of Loners in Alaska? Of Internationalists miles from port? Of a group in Rome or El Salvador?
3. Do I put down other members' behavior when it is different from mine, or do I learn from it
4. Do I always bear in mind that, to those outsiders who know I am in AA, I may to some extent represent our entire beloved Fellowship?
5. Am I willing to help a newcomer go to any lengths—his lengths, not mine—to stay sober?
6. Do I share my knowledge of AA tools with other members who may not have heard of them?

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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 will be available in fall 2019. All necessary information will be included in the registration packet which will also be available in the fall of 2019. This packet will list numbers to call for answers to specific questions about housing, the program, etc. The information will be mailed to A.A. groups, offices and contacts around the world and posted on the website. weekend in the COBO Center in downtown Detroit.

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### ***More on Four...***

Taking an honest look at ourselves can be frightening. We will need courage to be open to our unresolved or frozen feelings. Our courage will also help us to be open to memories that cause us guilt, shame, fear, or resentment. Know that it’s important for us to take that look. If we begin to feel uncomfortable, we don’t give up. Instead, we turn to the first Three Steps or any of the tools that have helped us fashion our recovery so far. For example, we can let our sponsor or our Group know that we’re beginning to work on our Fourth Step inventory. This recovery path may be ours, but our sponsor and home group—and many others—have walked it before us and are walking it with us now. We are not alone, and we don’t have to take this Step alone.

## Laughter Is Our Best Medicine



**Excerpts from the AA book "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers" show both humorous and serious sides of our co-founder.**

Ed B. remembered that Dr. Bob used to tell stories at meetings to illustrate certain points--much as parables are used in the Bible.

"He would always stress that being at the meeting was itself part of a spiritual awakening, that it didn't necessarily have to come to you in a flash of light", recalled Ed. "And to make the point in a humorous way, he would tell about the cop shining the light on a couple making love in the park. 'It's all right,' the man said. 'We're married.' 'I'm sorry,' the cop replied. 'I didn't know it was your wife. "Neither did I until you shined the light on us,' the man said."

Ed had quite a collection of Dr. Bob stories.

"Then you know how we talk about God never forgetting us. Dr. Bob had a story for that, too. One man was telling another about all the trouble his son got into, and the second fellow said, 'You know, Jim, if

that was my son, I'd kick him out.' The first fellow said, 'If he was your son, I'd kick him out, too.' That was to stress that God didn't kick us out. We left of our own accord. "Then about getting out of AA what you put into it. Doc told about the farmer asking this fellow if he wanted to work the harvest. 'What are you paying?' the man asked. 'I'll pay you what you're worth,' the farmer said. "No, thanks,' the fellow said. 'I'll be damned if I'll work for that little.'"

According to Ed, Dr. Bob would explain prayer by telling how the camels in a caravan would kneel down in the evening, and the men would unload their burdens. In the morning, they would kneel down again, and the men would put the burdens back on. "It's the same with prayer," Dr. Bob said. "We get on our knees to unload at night. And in the morning when we get on our knees again, God gives us just the load we are able to carry for that day."

"I remember one story he repeated over and over," said Ed. "It was about this boy who burned his hand. The doctor dressed it bandaged it. When he took the bandage off, the boy's hand was healed. The little boy said, 'You're wonderful, Doctor. You cure everybody, don't you?' 'No, I don't,' the doctor replied. 'I just dress the wound. God heals it.'"

Finally: "There was the woman who called and asked, 'Are you the Dr. Bob who helps alcoholics?' When he replied that he was, she asked him to send her two bottles of that Alcoholics Anonymous for her sick husband. "Don't you think one would be enough?' he asked. 'Oh no,' she replied. 'My husband is in the hospital. He needs two.'" . . .

Through this period [the onset of his fatal illness], Dr. Bob continued going to AA meetings at King School. Anne C. recalled hearing someone asking him at this time, "Do you have to go to all these meetings? Why don't you stay home and conserve your strength?"

Dr. Bob considered the question for a time, then said, "The first reason is that this way is working so well. Why should I take a chance on any other way? The second reason is that I don't want to deprive myself of the privilege of meeting, greeting, visiting with fellow alcoholics. It is a pleasure to me. And the third reason is the most important. I belong at that meeting for the sake of the new man or woman who might walk through that door. I am living proof that AA will work as long as I work AA, and I owe it to the new person to be there. I am the living example."

***“...liquor is but a symptom. We had to get down to causes and conditions.”***

*Alcoholics Anonymous, page 64.*

**STEP 4.** *Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*

Step **four** asks us to look honestly at ourselves. This is the beginning of clearing away the wreckage we have heaped upon ourselves and the people in our lives.

Alcohol twists our personalities and warp our values. Alcohol takes over our lives and allow us to justify unacceptable behavior. It is as if we put “Miracle Grow” on our character defects. If we were fortunate in our growing up years to learn some good values, we can throw it all away as a result of our use of alcohol.

This step provides the opportunity to look at our anger, resentment and the many other traits which are part of our whole personality. It asks that we look into every nook and cranny and attempt to find every flaw that has contributed to our downfall.

This requires two basic things: COURAGE and a large yellow legal pad. There is no way this step can be done without writing. There are very clear directions for this step in the Big Book, As well as in the Twelve and Twelve. The Big Book suggests we make a list of people we resent, identify the cause, and then indicate what part of our life it affected.

The Big Book also points out how our basic instincts can get us into so much difficulty. It speaks of sex, security and self-esteem, and how the pursuit of these in a selfish way creates most of the problems in our lives. It is suggested that all of these issues be covered in detail, in writing, so we can see clearly how these instincts have led to our unacceptable behavior.

Additionally, there are many personality traits which may have been part of us, and it is suggested we write about each one of these as it relates to our own life. Some of the words in this list may not fit, and that’s okay. We can go onto the next word, but bear in mind that being fearless and searching requires an in depth look at the following list: honesty · greed · grandiosity · guilt · courage · arrogance · willingness · forgiveness · self-centeredness · aggression · faith · guilt · possessiveness · procrastination · belligerence · acceptance · intolerance · jealousy · fear · selfishness · avarice · dependency · responsibility · envy · lust · pride · open-mindedness · loneliness · humility · profanity · laziness · impatience · stubbornness · perfectionism · punctuality · gratitude · anger.

It is possible that life experience will lead you to add to this list. The point is to be through and fearless because we can promise that inner peace and success most certainly depends on your willingness to complete this Step. It takes a lot of courage to look deeply within, but the end result is worth whatever it takes.

One interesting concept about the many feelings which affect our lives is that most negative emotions stem from fear, while positive ones all stem from love. As you delve into these words, attempt to identify the connection to fear and love.

*Source: Practice these Principles To Recovery and Inner Peace, G. Dean, 1994, page 8.*

## **The Three Legacies: Steps, Traditions and Concepts**

Almost everyone in A.A. who has been around for a few days is aware of the Steps. We may not understand them at first or know how to apply them but we know what they are. A drawing of awareness usually comes a bit later for the Traditions. We are told that they are for the Group what the Steps are for the individual. Sometimes we may even glimpse the spiritual qualities embodied in the Traditions but usually we ignore them until a conflict arises in the Fellowship. We are then reminded of their importance.

The Twelve Concepts, on the other hand, are rarely discussed at the individual or group level. Yet they are an important part of A.A. heritage and as such should be understood, especially by those who seek to be of service to the Fellowship at large.

As Bill W. explained, “These Twelve Concepts therefore represent an attempt to put on paper the why of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past and the conclusions that we have drawn from it cannot be lost...”

“Hence, a prime purpose of these Twelve Concepts is to hold the experience and lessons of the early days constantly before us. This should reduce the chance of hasty and unnecessary change.”

*Used with permission. Copyright G.S.O., 1960*





The *Fourth Step* brings us to a specific course of action that the AA Big Book describes as "vigorous." It is a "personal housecleaning which many of us had never attempted." The *Fourth Step* strengthens the decision we made in the *Third Step* and helps us carry it out. Unless we make a "strenuous effort to face, and to be rid of, the things in ourselves which have been blocking us, "our decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him can "have little permanent effect."

"We wish to look squarely at the unhappiness...this has caused others and ourselves." Our goal is to root out the causes of our living problems so that we can do something about them. We have embarked on a program that will restore us to sanity. That restoration, however, depends on our willingness to look at ourselves realistically and to endure the pain associated with facing what we have become.

### We Set Them on Paper

"In dealing with resentments, we set them on paper." That simple sentence in chapter 5 of the Big Book slowed my reading one evening as I sat with a blank pad in front of me, making no progress on my *Fourth Step*.

At that time I had been coming to meetings for two years and had not had a drink during that time. My introduction to the Steps was at my first meeting where the Twelve Steps were printed on a yellowed old shade that hung behind the speaker. I thought that if this was all there was to Alcoholics Anonymous, I'd have it down pat in four or five weeks, because everything that was on the wall had been included in my religious education. The *Fourth Step* was nothing more than an examination of conscience while the *Fifth Step* was the sacrament of confession. With that settled, I sat back to drink my coffee and the days passed.

I found hope in the Fellowship and moved forward like a horse with blinders on, never looking back. But the sharing, especially at Step meetings, brought reality to me as my head cleared. Like all who had gone before me in the Fellowship, I could not escape the past.

For the first year, the first three Steps held my attention. Every time that I got to the *Fourth Step*, I proceeded to lose myself in the text of the "Twelve and Twelve." Why did I get lost there? Easy--just the mention of the seven deadly sins--pride, greed, lust, anger, es its head. Guilt did help me not pick up understanding the rest of the text in the ed to finish all the Steps so fast I'd make but publicly I nodded my assent when year." I found myself writing in circles. One day, anger became my companion. said that his sponsor claimed the *Fourth* I take another look at what the Big Book That night I discovered the sentence. "In on paper." Nothing about guilt or sin sacrament of confession, just resent- destroys more alcoholics than anything disease. . . "



gluttony, envy, and sloth--and guilt raised the first drink though it kept me from "Twelve and Twelve." Privately I wanted the Guinness Book of World Records, people said, "You should do a Step a every time I tried to list all my sins.

It stayed day and night. My sponsor Step was the Step for anger. Why didn't had to say about it?

dealing with resentments, we set them here. No examination of conscience or ments. The Big Book says "resentment else. From it stem forms of spiritual

I began at my earliest memory and came forward through my life. My list was thorough. No one I knew well was left off, nor were institutions with which I had had contact. I was a walking resentment.

As I got to the middle of my list, my need to justify my resentment with a short postscript disappeared and I attempted simply to discover whether my anger was based on threatened self-esteem, money, ambition, or personal relationships.

When my list was complete I began to discover a startling truth--I had really been dependent on everyone. In this context the words "selfish," "dishonest," "self-seeking," and "frightened" took on new meaning. I appeared to be as powerless over the things I feared as I was over alcohol.

But I had only to turn the page of the Big Book for the instruction to make a list of my fears, ask my Higher Power to remove my fear and direct my attention "to what He would have us be." The Big Book says that after completing the *Fourth Step*, "you have swallowed and digested some big chunks of truth about yourself." This was true. Yet these truths were not accompanied by guilt. Instead I felt a deep sadness at the desperation with which I had acted. It was the beginning of an acceptance of myself, shortcomings, wrongs, and all.

The *Fifth Step* stood ahead--the road to "perfect peace and ease." I was ready to call my sponsor and set the time for it. We made the date two weeks from then--I wanted to stay on the old, familiar road a little longer before sharing my inventory with him.

## ***Honesty With Oneself***

Self appraisal which attains any real accuracy is unquestionably a difficult process. We all find it so easy and pleasant to view ourselves through a rosy hue of complimentary half-truths and so hard and unpleasant to take a look in the uncompromising and glaring light of the unvarnished truth.

The 4th Step is, indeed, a real challenge to honesty with oneself. In this way, it is both preparation and a complement to the 5th Step. To make the "searching and fearless moral inventory" called for in the 4th Step, one must first of all be searchingly and fearlessly honest about himself. The degree of honesty one can achieve will determine the accuracy and therefore the usefulness of the moral inventory.

One practical way of starting this very practical Step--or at least a way that helped one newcomer--is to prepare a record sheet with two columns, one headed, "Liabilities" and the other, "Assets."

Under "Liabilities" can be listed personality deficiencies and faults, such as intolerance, selfishness, indecisiveness, fear, indolence, a bad temper, impatience and a whole host of other qualities which most everyone at this early stage discovers he has in abundance.

Under "Assets," if any, can be listed the opposite positives--tolerance, generosity (and this does not mean giving the poor bum a dime for a cup of coffee and feeling noble about it for two blocks), thoughtfulness of other people, humility, patience, and a few other attributes. Few persons, if honest, ever work up much of a list on this side of the ledger for their first moral inventory.

The actual process of deciding what to put in each column consists of asking oneself some pointed questions. Am I tolerant of other people's peculiarities, other creeds, other colors, other races, other opinions? Or do I dislike somebody because of the way he combs his hair or ties his tie? How many favors will I do other people without expecting one in return? Will I really go out of my way to help someone, or only when it's convenient? Do I feel superior to others? Am I impatient of others' shortcomings, while being very patient about my own? Am I honest, or do I practice deceit and double-talk, and then excuse myself afterwards with some fancy rationalizing? Am I

kind, considerate, gentle?

The more questions one asks himself along this line the clearer become the entries he should make in each column.

If this is the first moral inventory one has taken of himself, or at least the most honest one, he will find it the most trying. But he also will find that in itself it will give him a certain feeling of relief. Finally he has begun to face facts. Finally he has worked up enough courage to face himself as he really is, and not as he has been dreaming he is. This is a courageous step forward. It is another step onto the path to sanity, stability and happiness.

The first inventory should not be the last by any means. In fact, the principle and the technique of the moral inventory become a vital part of the new life. The first is the most difficult. Subsequent inventories show where progress has been made, where more effort still needs to be placed. If an inventory be taken at regular intervals, one has at hand a guide for keeping on the beam.

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The moral inventory is one of A.A.'s most effective techniques. Of course, as with other A.A. techniques, its effectiveness depends on how well it is used. The inventory will not work by itself. The benefit comes about through the efforts made to change that which the inventory reveals should be changed.

*T.D., Manhattan, N.Y.*

**FINANCES****MAR****YTD****Income**

Literature/Merchandise \$5,155 \$13,706

Group Contributions 2,3876 7,393

AA Birthdays

Faithful Five 15 55

Anonymous

**Total Income** 7,557 7,448**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees 186 359

Travel/Licenses/Permits 218

Office Supplies 77 265

License/Permits

Payroll Net 1,618 4,853

Payroll Tax 1,113

Postage 30

Printing 369 369

Purchases/Lit./Merch. 3,201 9,516

Insurance

Rent 500 1,500

Sales Tax 270 811

Telephone/www 394 782

Utilities 100 300

Contributions 173

Computer Software 100 346

Computer Equip./Maintain 450 498

Travel

**Total Expenses** 7,266 21,392**Net Ordinary Income** 291 -237

Other Income

Other Expenses

**NET OTHER INCOME****NET INCOME** \$291 \$-237**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 Pine Ridge Rd., Unit B  
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".

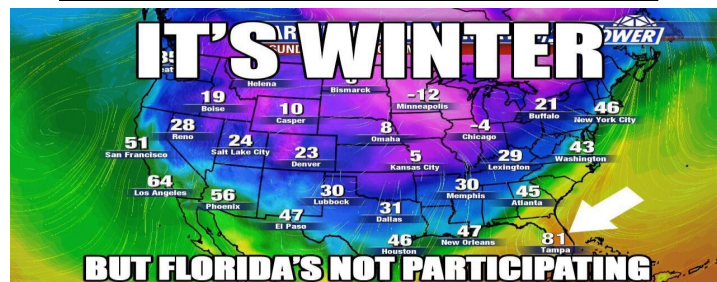
\*Please see A.A. pamphlet: "The A.A. Group...where it all begins" P-16

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Group/Meeting	Mar	YTD
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482 .....	0	0
24 Hour Solution .....	0	69
Apreniendo A Vivre, 176467 .....	0	0
Back To Basics .....	0	0
Beach Bums 641645 .....	0	0
Big Book Comes Alive, 710427 .....	0	60
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	134
Bonita Beginners .....	0	0
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997 .....	0	572
Bonita Men, 654428 .....	200	200
Bonita Saturday Night .....	0	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493 .....	0	360
Bonita Springs Women's 169127 .....	0	250
Bonita Springs Step, 134588 .....	0	0
Bonita Unity, 103316 .....	175	175
Bring Your Own Big Book .....	0	0
Brown Bag, 163924 .....	0	700
Burning Desire, 653891 .....	0	0
Cake Meeting .....	0	50
Came to Believe, 615490 .....	0	0
Candlelight, 606877 .....	0	0
Comes Of Age .....	0	0
Common Solutions, 179613 .....	0	200
Early Reflections, 653770 .....	0	0
Early Riser, 161795 .....	534	792
East Trail, 150873 .....	0	0
Easy Does It, 156979 .....	250	1,050
Free 2 Be, 6700930 .....	0	110
Friday Big Book .....	0	0
Girlfriends, 678117 .....	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	0
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950 .....	0	100
Lil'White House .....	0	0
Living Sober, 605904 .....	0	0
Living Sober Isle of Capri .....	0	0
Men Of Naples, 634030 .....	0	0
Morning Reflections, 660700 .....	28	28
Naples Group, 103609 .....	0	0
Naples Men's, 694322 .....	0	200
Naples South, 130210 .....	213	213
Naples Young People, 699130 .....	0	0
New Dawn, 632504 .....	0	0
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

Group/Meeting	Mar	YTD
One Day At A Time .....	0	0
Our Common Welfare .....	0	0
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323 .....	0	0
Pay It Forward, 704772 .....	0	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715 .....	675	675
Saturday Morning Girlfriends .....	0	132
Spiritual Solutions, 720796 .....	0	0
Start Where You Are .....	0	0
Step By Step .....	0	0
Still Living Sober, 624730 .....	0	0
Students of the Steps, 635600 .....	0	0
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079 .....	0	0
Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959 .....	0	0
Sunset Serenity, 654981 .....	0	0
Survivor's, 157268 .....	50	50
SW 239 BID .....	0	0
Swamp Group, 672733 .....	0	0
Tables of Naples, 147671 .....	0	111
Third Tradition, 143298 .....	60	60
Three Legacies, 679400 .....	0	0
Thursday Women .....	0	0
Unity Monday Noon Step .....	67	185
Unity Step .....	0	56
Veranda .....	80	80
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923 .....	0	0
Wanderers, Ave Maria .....	0	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011 .....	0	36
Wednesday Step St. Johns .....	85	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.



## Thinking Green?



Donate your used Big Books and Twelve and Twelves as well as past issues of the Grapevine. These older edition books and magazines can be recycled through treatment centers and prisons where allowed. Drop them off at Naples Central Office or call 262-6535 for more information.

How about all those chips and medalions in your car or home just collecting dust and tarnishing???

These can be recycled too.

## END OF MEETING PRAYER

I am told the reason we join hands is to remind us of the truth, we are no longer alone. And our prayer is for the still suffering alcoholic in this room and on the streets. Hold on to the hand of the person next to you like your life depends on it, someday it may. Who's Father?



*Does anyone know its origin?*

## A.A. and the Camel...

The camel has been one of the A.A. symbols for a very long time primarily in the Akron area. "Dr. Bob would explain prayer by telling how the camels in a caravan would kneel down in the evening, and the men would unload their burdens. In the morning, they would kneel down again, and the men would put the burdens back on.

"'It's the same with prayer,' Dr. Bob said. 'We get on our knees to unload at night. And in the morning when we get on our knees again, God gives us just the load we are able to carry for that day.'"

- Dr. Bob and the Good Old Timers, page 229



Some unknown clever AA wrote a little poem about the A.A. Camel:

"The camel each day goes twice to his knees. He picks up his load with the greatest of ease. He walks through the day with his head held high and he stays for that day completely dry."

# Celebrate Your Sobriety ... Join the Birthday

## Birthday Plan Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sobriety Date</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Home Group</u>
Ron P.	03/29/70	48	Beach Bums
Ron L.	07/24/78	40	Gratitude Hour
Don M.	03/09/80	38	Bonita Unity
Rad W.	08/20/85	33	Gratitude Hour
Jackie T. F.	04/25/84	33	Morning Reflection
Dennis F.	07/15/84	27	Unity Step
Richard K.	11/25/90	27	Miami
Peter F.	03/01/95	24	Easy Does It
Bill S.	01/11/02	17	Brown Bag
Mary B.	07/22/02	16	Naples Group
Karen B.	02/11/09	7	Brown Bag
Heather W.	03/22/00	17	Naples Group
Judy W.	03/21/86	31	Easy Does It
Laura T. F.	06/16/16	1	Morning reflection
Steve K.	07/29/92	26	Primary Purpose
Steve L.	08/28/93	25	Early Reflection
Dale P.	05/29/98	20	

## History of the Birthday Plan...

The 1955 General Service Conference approved the Birthday Plan, under which members of the Fellowship send a dollar a year for each year of sobriety they have in A.A. Others use a figure of \$3.65, a penny a day, for each year. Some give more, but the amount cannot exceed \$3,000 for any year. Special envelopes are available to send your Birthday Plan contribution.



## become a Faithful Fiver

“Every A.A. wants to make sure of his survival from alcoholism, and his spiritual well-being afterward. This is just as it should be. He also wants to do what he can for the survival and well-being of his fellow alcoholics. Therefore he is bound to have a vital interest in the permanence and well-being of A.A. itself.”

Bill W., *Language of the Heart*, p.166

## What are Faithful Fivers?

*Faithful Fivers are A.A. members who graciously contribute \$5.00 or more\* each month to support Naples Intergroup/Central Office.*

**\*contributions are limited to \$3,000 per member**

## **FAITHFUL FIVERS**

KAREN B. (04/17), RON L. (07/19), CHUCK W. (03/17),

TOM H., (01/18), BILL S., (01/18), MARY B., (03/18), JAMES B., (07/19)

THERESA R. MONTHLY, JEFFREY S. MONTHLY,

JUDY W., (01/18), KATHRYN M., MONTHLY

**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  
chair@district20aa.org  
**Alt. Chair:**  
Peter C.  
altchair@district20aa.org  
**Treasurer:**  
Mary B., 777-8066  
treasurer@district20aa.org  
**Registrar:**  
Jill M., 309-3879  
registrar@district20aa.org  
**Secretary:**  
Tiffany M. 227-8669  
secretary@district20aa.org

**Service Committees:****Treatment/Accessibilities-  
OPPORTUNITY**

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

**Corrections**

Tom M., 200-8791  
corrections@district20aa.org  
Business meeting the first  
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

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**District 20****Business Meeting:**

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

**MONTHLY  
NAPLES  
INTERGROUP  
MEETING  
Central Office  
1509-2 Pine Ridge Rd.  
(next to 24 Hour Club)  
First Wednesday of  
month at 7:00pm**

**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

**Area 15; Panel 69**

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

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**Secretary:** Kevin D.  
PO Box 842  
West Palm Beach, FL

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mbrown8869@gmail.com

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**Secretary:**  
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pflemin1@aol.com

**Treasurer:**  
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kenahelton@gmail.com

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Ralph W.  
Rhett A.

**www**  
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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., Mike R.,  
Mary B., Holly G.,  
Mary Pat B., Mari D.  
...and loyal Substitutes

**After Hours Phone**  
Mary B., 777-8066