

THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup
1509 Pine Ridge Road, Unit B
Naples, Florida 34109



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February, 2018

Don't Eat the Seed

Plant the Seeds and Enjoy the Harvest

Step two doesn't seem to get a lot of attention but coming from a way of life that was riddled with fear and insecurity; I wanted all of the good things to happen right now. In the beginning, I was drawn towards the men who talked about character building and living by principles but, as we all come to terms with the idea that wellness takes time and there are no shortcuts when it comes to rejecting our old habits and replacing them with unselfish principles that have been around for centuries. These ideas were the seeds of my recovery in the program. I was re-introduced to these principles in the beginning of my A.A. journey and have been putting them to good use ever since and the results have turned out to be better than I ever could have expected. I believe that every person that surrenders to the A.A. program and attends meetings on a regular basis starts getting results immediately simply because he/she has stopped drinking and making many of the mistakes that are the result of their alcoholic behavior. Understanding the recovery process is more than just changing our behavior as the result of abstaining from the use of alcohol but without that abstinence, the rest of the process cannot be accomplished. Most of our behavior is the direct result of our thinking and as alcoholics; we have done a terrible job of getting it right. A life driven by fear and insecurity (thoughts) drove us to be takers (actions) just to try to get equal with the world around us but our faulty perception of that was never enough and this would go on forever had we not surrendered and accepted new ideas on how to correct our thinking. Being willing to take the risk and test out the principles we learn in A.A. sets us on a path of revisiting all of our motives for the decisions we've made in the past and put a principle in place to govern our behavior. In time, the newly discovered solutions simplify the decision making process and relieve us the responsibility to form our own principles or to modify existing principles. We often try to illustrate these concepts using analogies or comparisons and the way I try to describe the principle of unselfishness is as follows: I was talking to a young man in his early twenties about economics and the need to keep up with the Jones's and suggest that he hold off on spending any money on things that he wanted unless those were things he absolutely needed and get in the habit of spending less than he earned. (A simple principle) I then suggested that he get ahead of the curve so that he always had money left over and put it into a savings account. Soon he could purchase a home. The equity in the home would grow and would increase and increase his net worth without any effort on his part, and that economic cushion would be the beginning of what leads to financial peace of mind. To simplify that process I said to him: *Don't eat the seeds, plant the seeds and enjoy the harvest*. In A.A. we have to look at the principles, as we understand them, and plant them in our minds today if we want to enjoy their results later down the road. If, however we postpone planting these spiritual seeds we will continue to be saddled with the insecurities that caused the need to drink in the first place. If we can get ahead of the curve and be persistent, and every time we find an unselfish principle that makes sense to us, plant that seed in our consciousness, the results will overcome our fears and insecurities and we will sleep well when our head hits the pillow at night. The time it takes to achieve this peace of mind varies depending on how dedicated we practice these principles but it will not begin until we plant the seed and then patiently prune the plants until they reach maturity. The more seeds we plant, the bigger the harvest. As a friend of mine once said, "If you are praying for potatoes, you better grab a hoe".



Rich R., Naples, FL

STEP TWO: *Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.*

TRADITION TWO: *For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.*

TRADITION TWO: (Long Form) *For our group purposes there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.*

Noticed? Tradition Two's long form is shorter than the short form! Go figure...

CONCEPT TWO: *When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference - excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter -- the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.*

2nd Step Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know in my heart that only You can restore me to sanity. I humbly ask that You remove all twisted thought and addictive behavior from me this day. Heal my spirit and restore in me a clear mind.

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

CONCEPT TWO—GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE BECOMES THE ACTUAL VOICE OF AA

Alcoholics Anonymous for the AA member's recovery has been and will always be about shared experience. Bill W., our Co-Founder, had almost singlehandedly written most of our earlier writings based on his and the early Groups shared experience. Many AA wanted to see more of Dr. Bob's writings authority to Bill and unfortunately he be-Ann in 1949. Dr. Bob passed away in

In 1937, the New York and Akron ate over-all services which could spread however, they could do very little. Dr. Akron and Bill was employed part time. trusted servants and delegate to them Bob also gave Bill the lion's share of the York City was to be our Headquarters. In members and non-alcoholic friends and 1954, the name was changed from the vice Board.



Over time the Trustees constantly looked and the Groups continued to hold them accountable. It became evident that the leadership in AA should be transferred to AA Groups as a whole. The experiment was formed to create a General Service Conference. This was met with fierce resentment by a few of the non-alcoholic Trustees.

The United States and Canada would be split up into portions that would be called Delegate Areas and the General Service Representatives would elect a Delegate every two years. The first General Service Conference was held in 1951. Bill D (AA #3) was the first Northern Ohio Delegate. He was assigned to the Budget Committee and today it is referred to as the Finance Committee.

The Conference would (and still does) take place in New York every April. The 93 Delegates meet with the General Service Board Trustees and Staff workers from the General Service Office. They are joined by Staff workers from the *AA Grapevine* and certain other service workers. The Delegates make up a 2/3 majority of voting members when motions are voted on. This year 2018, will mark the 68th General Service Conference, since that first experiment that took place in Cleveland in 1951.

members have confided with me that they and quotes but he decided to delegate that came ill in the late 1940's and lost his wife 1950.

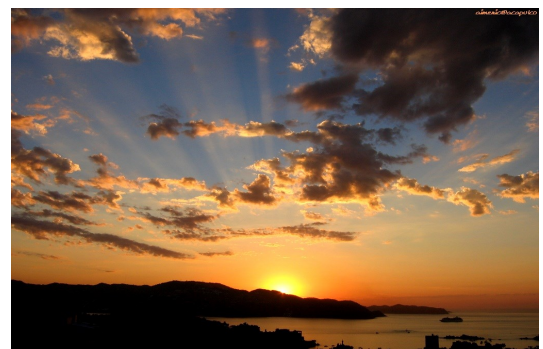
Groups authorized Bill and Dr. Bob to create the AA message worldwide. On their own Bob was trying to rebuild his practice in They realized that they would have to find their own responsibilities and authority. Dr. responsibility and it was decided that New 1938 Bill formed a small Trusteeship of AA they called it the Alcoholic Foundation. In Alcoholic Foundation to the General Ser-

to the Co-Founders for advice and guidance

look back and be grateful.

look ahead and be hopeful.

look around and be helpful.



Lights, Action, God and You

*If you can't see the light
At the end of the tunnel.
Perhaps you are faced the wrong way;
A turn to the left or a turn to the right
And maybe you'll see it, O.K.?*

*You can also just ask... "Please help, God," will do...
And let what will happen just do.
Whatever it is, you can handle the biz...
You've got god standing there now with you!*

Jim C.

God As We Understand Him

*Man, himself, is insufficient
And needs God or he's alone...
And then he builds himself religion
To claim God as his own.*

*We give each the right to his own God;
I have mine... He helps me so...
And He is the one who keeps me honest...
That's what I know that I know.*

Jim C.

GOING to MEETINGS

I am still amazed, after years of recovering, at how easily I can begin to talk myself out of attending meetings. I am also still amazed at how good I feel when I go.

We don't have in our misery fort. An immediate available that feel better: go Twelve Step group.



to stay stuck and discom-
diate option is
will help us
to a meeting, a
support

Why resist what can help us feel better? Why sit in our obsession or depression when attending a meeting - even if that means an extra meeting - would help us feel better?

Too busy?

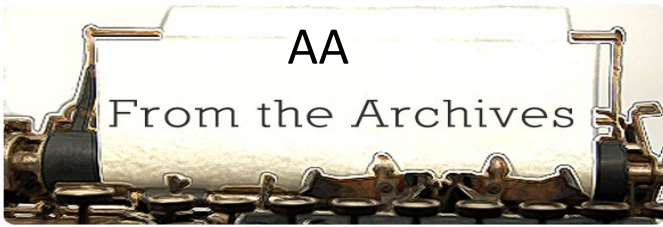
There are 168 hours in each week. Taking 1 or 2 hours a week for a meeting can maximize the potential of the remaining 166 hours. If we get into our "codependent stuff," we can easily spend a majority of our waking hours obsession, sitting and doing nothing, lying in bed and feeling depressed, or chasing after other people's needs. Not taking those 2 hours for a meeting can cause us to waste the remaining hours.

Too tired?

There is nothing as invigorating as getting back on track. Going to a meeting can accomplish that.

Today, I will remember that going to meetings helps.





WE THE PEOPLE, the Gabriel Heatter radio broadcast of April 25, 1939.

The first national exposure for Alcoholics Anonymous came with the April 25, 1939 "We The People" broadcast. Gabriel Heatter's radio program was a tremendously popular program that was tuned in by millions of people. Morgan R., the AA member who spoke on the program, was expected to launch sales of the newly published book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. How Morgan was prepared for his three-minute talk, and the resulting book sales are described in the A.A.W.S. publication *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* on pages 174-175. Following is a transcript of the interview:

HEATTER:

The man beside me now has had one of the most gripping and dramatic experiences I've ever heard. I'm not going to tell you his name. And when you hear what he has to say I think you'll understand why. But after checking the facts, the Listeners Committee of "We The People" decided to grant him time because they feel that if one person is helped by hearing his story, then WE THE PEOPLE will have done a real service. All right, sir.

ANONYMOUS GUEST:

Six months ago I got out of an insane asylum. I'd been sent there because I was drinking myself to death. But the doctors said they could do nothing for me. And only four years ago I was making 20,000 dollars a year. I was married to a swell girl and had a young son. But I worked hard and like lots of my friends - I used to drink to relax. Only they knew when to stop. I didn't. And pretty soon - I drank myself out of my job. I promised my wife I'd straighten out. But I couldn't. Finally she took the baby and left me.

The next year was like a nightmare. I was penniless. I went out on the streets—panhandled money for liquor. Every time I sobered up - I swore not to touch another drop. But if I went a few hours without a drink - I'd begin to cry like a baby, and tremble all over. One day after I left the asylum I met a friend of mine. He took me to the home of one of his friends. A bunch of men were sitting around, smoking cigars, telling jokes—having a great time. But I noticed they weren't drinking. When Tom told me they'd all been in the same boat as I was - I couldn't believe him. But he said, "See that fellow? He's a doctor. Drank himself out of his practice. Then he straightened out. Now he's head of a big hospital." Another big strapping fellow was a grocery clerk. Another the vice president of a big corporation. They got together five years ago. Called themselves Alcoholics Anonymous. And they'd worked out a method of recovery. One of their most important secrets was - helping the other fellow. Once they began to follow it the method proved successful and helped others get on their feet

- they found they could stay away from liquor. Gradually - those men helped me back to life. I stopped drinking. Found courage to face life once again. Today I've got a job - and I'm going to climb back to success. Recently we wrote a book called "Alcoholics Anonymous". It tells precisely how we all came back from a living death. Working on that book made me realize how much other people had suffered - how they'd gone through the same thing I did. That's why I wanted to come on this program. I wanted to tell people who are going through that torment - if they sincerely want to they can come back. Take their place in society once again!

(APPLAUSE)

(MUSIC)

The General Service theme for 2018 is: "A.A.— A Solution for All Generations"

Ruth Hock was the first paid secretary for Alcoholics Anonymous office in New York. In February 1942, she resigned to get married. Bill W. paid tribute to her for her good work. Ruth had signed 15,000 letters to alcoholics who wrote to the office asking for help.

Naples Area Intergroup/Central Office carries on this tradition of making sure "the hand of AA is always there" with a live recovering alcoholic volunteer to answer the AA phone, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. No one who calls the AA number is going to get a menu of options to choose from or elevator music or a sales pitch. This service lies on many individual and group volunteers who contribute their time, whether a few hours a month or a weekly commitment. The 12 Office volunteers who volunteer Monday thru Saturday from 9am to 4pm answer the bulk of the calls to the AA phone. However, should someone need help at any other time of the day or weekend, we have "Night Owls" who answer the AA phone from 4:01pm until 8:59am. So no matter when the phone rings the important fact is that there is a live recovering alcoholic who answers.



Thank you to all the office/phone volunteers.

If you are interested in this important AA service, contact the Central Office. 239-262-6535 We are always in need of substitutes

A Program Greater Than My Own

Understanding Step Two

Seldom have I been in a meeting where someone hasn't referred to his or her higher power, and as I see it, most people that stay around for any length of time in AA come to some sort of terms with, or an understanding of, a power greater than themselves that works for them.

Once that hurdle is cleared, they seem to settle into a more comfortable way of life. There are also those that come to us with a strong religious affiliation, and they sometimes share that the AA program helps them to enhance their faith. Others come here that are atheist or agnostic, and the program works for them as well as it does for anyone else.

Then there are those who, for whatever reason, have trouble clearing those hurdles and sometimes spend years struggling with this issue of God as we understand him.

I believe that for as long as AA exists, we will witness these kinds of quandaries in new members who are conditioned by the environments from which they came. I don't claim to have a surefire answer to what makes us different, other than what I have learned about myself, and how I have resolve my own mental blocks.

I know that I was biased myself when bly due to my failed attempt at religion the religion but more to do with the enough to understand religion at the ognized early in my sobriety that I with the minimum understanding of that's what it tells me in the *12X12*. It the hoop with room to spare.



I first entered the program – proba- as a child. This had little to do with fact that I was not mentally evolved age of six. Fortunately for me, I rec- could take the steps of the program God, or a higher power, after all says that even an atheist got through

I was at a meeting recently when a they had come to terms with their belief in a higher power and as they were poking fun at themselves trying to fit it all together and make sense of it so everyone could understand, they finally threw their hands up in the air and said, with a smile, “Well, that’s how it works for me!” We all joined in laughter for we have seen this scenario replayed many times before.

As I was listening to them speak, a thought came to me as a result of what they shared. As we were leaving the meeting, I followed close behind them. I offered that thought to them. I said, “Maybe if, instead of calling it *a power greater than myself*, we could just refer to it as *a program greater than my own*.” They laughed and said, “That’s what I was trying to say!”

It’s clear to me now, that it wasn’t as important to identify what or who God is, or what my concept of a power greater than myself was at the time. I found it more important at the time to proceed through the rest or the program, and do the things that are suggested. The main thing that I had to do

was to accept outside guidance, especially when it is based on sound, well established principles.

Many successful people in the program have come to understand a concept of a higher power in that way. Sometimes it’s hard to grasp it all at once. Don’t let that stop you. I would encourage anyone who is having trouble with this issue to consider the *program greater than my own* idea.

Time and experience will help you along the road to understanding. I can almost guarantee that if you, *stop fighting and practice the rest of the AA program as enthusiastically as you can*, (*12X12* p 27) you will come to terms with a power greater than yourself and put this issue to rest.

— Rick R, *Harbor Light* , Long Beach, CA, Feb. 2017

Tradition Two

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

When I was asked to write this article on Tradition Two, my first thought, aside from what could I possibly say to make this article the best thing since sliced bread or peanut butter and jelly, was, man do I have a decent set of personal experiences on how not to practice Tradition Two.

Even before I got sober, I had no wish to work for any group or entity

unless it suited me. I also longed for some place to be and find purpose with wanted to and many other feel-ings of despair in a



holism a lot of anxiety and consequences

My alcoholism caused me a lot of pain, stress and hopelessness. Ultimately, my alcoholism led to reform. In spite of me — of course. After running away from me and to different states as well, I came to AA and definitely did not want what this fellowship had to offer.

My rebellious nature could not even grasp individuals like me staying sober, let alone to trust one another or to make group decisions. I wasn't even sold on the fact that I was an alcoholic, so how could I believe that these spiritual principles had merit?

Yet, I thought, what did I really have to lose? And so, I gave this way of life a shot and the AA Twelve Steps did save my life. These tools saved me from my insanity and I found a place where I belonged. I dove head first into service and the fellowship and after my first year of sobriety I was really on fire to serve.

I learned that AA functioned like a living organism. These people, who usually don't mix, were working together and functioning as a unit. These havens would bring decisions to a body of alcoholics and they would vote on various matters.

Even more astonishing, certain individuals would carry out the decisions on behalf of the group. When I would discuss with fellow drunks our decisions, they would usually say something like, “It went the way it was supposed to.”

Now, having gone through my steps and essentially being the most spiritual man on the planet, I thought I knew things that others clearly didn't. Usually though, group decisions didn't go my way a lot of the time or I had a lot of apathy on other matters initially. My pride and ego did not see the importance of our meetings making decisions on whether to have a commitment coordinator or to have multiple greeters.

Even the discussion of these unimportant matters seemed pointless and a waste of time. I thought that our only function should be to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our group decisions should only encompass simple things like a secretary to get speakers and a treasurer to pay the rent. Everything else was a waste of our time and effort.

Thank God, they didn't! I would later learn of the necessity of certain commitments. I found out that greeters are essential in making someone feel welcome. Newcomers, often feel alone and apart from the group — as I did — and that greeters can be a bright spot in someone's life.

Alcoholics have a tendency sometimes to be flaky and standoffish, I know I have at times. My limited perspective combined with a self-centered need to always be right could have caused more problems down the line.

To my inner core, I crave being right and running things my way. Even though I mean well, situations often don't fare well when I am the director. Given the opportunity, I will and have been the captain of a sinking ship. For me to allow a group to decide on matters as a group and to trust in that process is an act of faith and a practice in humility.

Another experience that comes to mind is my current service with Young People in AA as the chair of a service committee. I had a specific agenda and direction where I wanted this committee to go. Once again, under the “meaning well” disease, I thought that I had the authority to get drunks to do as I wished. Yes, alcohol is cunning.

My agenda would see our group return to its former glory and I would get all the credit I thought I deserved. So, I forced my insanity on that committee and forgot my purpose as to why I was even there. I felt separate from the group. My delusion of authority pulled me away from service and more to serving me.

Those self-will actions caused me a lot of unnecessary pain and misery. I learned that in order to feel part of the group I had to back away from the “carrying the team on my back” mentality. For the greater good I had to retire as King of YPAA.

I learned why being a trusted servant and not being the authority figure was so important — a worker among workers, as they say. I came to learn that my higher power spoke through the group and that I didn't need to drown it out with what I wanted.

I now believe that to keep AA unity alive, Tradition Two is indispensable. This principle protects the unity and the voice of AA from my ego. It gives me an opportunity to be a part of and to practice working for the one thing that saved my life.

As they say, the highest ranking in AA is to be sober and the best job in AA is being a trusted servant.

— Julius Y, *Harbor Light*, Long Beach, CA, Feb. 2017

FINANCES

Jan.*

Income

Literature/Merchandise	5,419
Group Contributions	2,307
AA Birthdays	
Faithful Five	25
Anonymous	

Total Income 7,680

Expenses

Bank/Credit Card Fees	
Travel/Licenses/Permits	
Office Supplies	132
Office Improvement	
Payroll Net	1,427
Payroll Tax	1,341
Postage	
Printing	369
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	1,293
Insurance	
Rent	500
Sales Tax	138
Telephone/www	189
Utilities	100
Contributions	
Computer Software	
Computer Maintenance	
Computer Equipment	

Total Expenses 5,628

Net Ordinary Income 1,385

Ttl Other Income

Ttl Other Expenses

Net Other Income

NET INCOME

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

Cary White
P.O. Box 56
Sebring FL 33870
(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) their area and district; and 3) the General Service Office. 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 *The A.A. Group Treasurer, F-96,*

*Service material prepared by the
General Service Office*

*This is a tentative P & L for January. Our credit card company held January credit card sales due to a "stop payment" action that we instituted. Unknown to us, whenever there is a "dispute", no funds are transferred to the "disputed" account. When the credit card reinstituted payments, they were all credited to the month of February.

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*

Group/Meeting	JAN.	YTD
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482.....	0.....	0
Aprendiendo A Vivre, 176467.....	0.....	0
Back To Basics.....	0.....	0
Beach Bums 641645.....	0.....	0
Big Book Comes Alive, 710427.....	0.....	0
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.....	0
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....	0.....	0
Bonita Men, 654428.....	0.....	0
Bonita Saturday Night.....	0.....	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	315.....	315
Bonita Springs Women's Group, 169127.....	0.....	0
Bonita Step.....	0.....	0
Bonita Unity, 103316.....	0.....	0
Brown Bag, 163924.....	280.....	280
Burning Desire, 653891.....	0.....	0
Cake Meeting.....	0.....	0
Came to Believe, 615490.....	0.....	0
Candlelight, 606877.....	0.....	0
Common Solutions, 179613.....	73.....	73
Early Reflections, 653770.....	0.....	0
Early Riser, 161795.....	184.....	187
East Trail, 150873.....	0.....	0
Easy Does It, 156979.....	200.....	200
Free 2 Be, 6700930.....	88.....	88
Friday Big Book.....	50.....	50
Girlfriends, 678117.....	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.....	189.....	0
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950.....	0.....	0
Lil'White House Group.....	0.....	0
Living Sober, 605904.....	0.....	0
Living Sober Isle of Capri.....	0.....	0
Men Of Naples, 634030.....	0.....	0
Morning Reflections, 660700.....	0.....	0
Naples Group, 103609.....	0.....	0
Naples Men's, 694322.....	0.....	0
Naples South, 130210.....	100.....	100
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.....	0
Nueva Vida.....	0.....	0
Old Timers, 698956.....	0.....	0
One Day At A Time, 120975.....	105.....	0

Group/Meeting	JAN.	YTD
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.....	0.....	0
Spiritual Solutions, 720796.....	0.....	0
Start Where You Are.....	0.....	0
Step By Step.....	83.....	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.....	220.....	0
Sunset Serenity, 654981.....	0.....	0
Survivor's, 157268.....	0.....	0
SW 239 BID.....	0.....	0
Swamp Group, 672733.....	40.....	0
Tables of Naples, 147671.....	60.....	0
Third Tradition, 143298.....	0.....	0
Three Legacies, 679400.....	0.....	0
Thursday Women.....	200.....	200
Unity Noon Step.....	50.....	0
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923.....	0.....	0
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	0.....	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011.....	70.....	0
Wednesday Step St. Johns.....	0.....	0
Where Are We.....	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.



Concept Two

"The General Service Conference of AA has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs."

Most people find our Concepts boring, dry, impersonal and are unable to relate to them. It is my hope to make them more personal, colorful, and relatable – as such, I am "coloring outside the lines!"

It's my belief to understand better we first derstand a few To begin with, merely ideas.

The Concepts are those imtions, customs, legal arrange- the General into a working harmony with its primary committees and with its corporate arms of active service – AA World Service (AAWS) Inc., and the AA Grapevine Inc. This is the substance of the structural framework that governs the internal situation at AA's World Headquarters. Each Concept is a group of related principles, a summation, a working guide.

And Bill W's writings on the Concepts are merely a series of essays. The word essay derives from the French infinitive *essayer*, "to try" or "to attempt" – so the Concepts are Bill's attempt to put his thoughts and ideas into writing. Imagine you are Bill W and by 1948, AA has been growing steadily and thriving. And you had observed that other societies had fallen due to a lack of continuity in leadership and responsibility. You are worried that this was going to happen to AA. You also knew that our 12th Step – *Carrying the Message* – is not only the basic service that the Fellowship provides, it is our primary aim and the main reason for our existence. This *must* go on – no matter what!

The reason why all of this has been possible until now is because these overall services were the sole function of you, Dr. Bob, a few old-time AA's, and several non-alcoholic friends – the self-appointed trustees of AA.

You, Bill, wanted to leave Alcoholics Anonymous and our greatest asset – the *Big Book* – to the *whole* Fellowship but you knew that the fellowship could not do this on its own. You knew that you couldn't just leave it *all* to the Trustees – which would have been contradictory to Tradition Two. Certainly, a large measure of responsibility and authority was necessary – but not final responsibility and ultimate authority.

The conclusion was the formation of the General Service Conference on July 3, 1955 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Conference works together with the General Service Board and ensures that AA must be *owned* by AA Groups and Members (Spiritually) and by the Trustees (Legally)!

Concept Two is one of: wisdom; love; caring; effectiveness; efficiency; logic and legality; intelligence; foresight; unselfishness; generosity; consideration; deliberation;



and feeling that Concept Two we need to un- other things. the Concepts are

carefully deline- portant Tradi- relationships and ments that weld Service Board

freedom to serve; prudence; Tradition Two and; our 12th Step in business attire with several cups of coffee!

Bill's unselfish and beautiful act of carefully orchestrating a series of measures that transferred his and Dr. Bob's ultimate and final authority to the AA Groups – thus the Conference – and delivering to us our spiritual inheritance of our Three Legacies to our full and permanent possession is... Concept Two.

Through Concept Two you can see how Bill and Bob continue to live on through us – the fellowship, groups and members of AA – and the General Service Board. It's up to all of *us* to continue the work they began.

AA is more than a set of principles. It is a society of alcoholics in action. It is a movement. As such, we should ask ourselves the following questions and act upon them:

How am I making a difference? What improvements am I working on? Where do we/I want AA to go? How ready are we to go there? What do we need to get there? How do we keep moving forward?

General Service is where we do this. Roll up your sleeves!

— Lisa P, *Harbor Light*, Long Beach, CA, Feb 2017

Rule 62

An inexperienced preacher was to hold a graveside burial service at a pauper's cemetery for an alcoholic with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived an hour late, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Feeling guilty because of his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workman say to the other, "I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I ain't never seen anything like that.."

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	45	Beach Bums
Ron L.	07/24/78	38	Gratitude Hour
Don M.	03/09/80	37	Bonita Unity
Rad W.	08/20/85	31	Gratitude Hour
Jackie F.	04/25/84	32	Free 2 Be
Dennis F.	07/15/84	27	Unity Step
Richard K.	11/25/90	27	Miami
Peter F.	03/01/95	22	Easy Does It
Bill S.	01/11/02	15	Brown Bag
Mary B.	07/22/02	15	Brown Bag
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.	07/01/16	1	Spiritual Solutions
Steve K.	07/29/92	25	Primary Purpose
Sarah B.		14	
Steve L.	08/28/93	24	Early Reflection

Welcome Ron L. to the Birthday Plan

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 Inter-group/Central Office.*

*contributions are limited to \$3,000 per member per year and are tax deductible under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c)(3).

*Page 9, Self-Support Pamphlet

FAITHFUL FIVERS

Welcome Mary B.

KAREN B. (04/17), RON L. (07/18), CHUCK W. (03/17),

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

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:

Jerry E., 776-6767
chair@district20aa.org

Alt. Chair:

Mike B., 465-7823
altchair@district20aa.org

Treasurer:

Jordon M., 331-9545
treasurer@district20aa.org

Registrar:

Mary B., 777-8066
registrar@district20aa.org

Secretary:

Michele B., 465-6047
secretary@district20aa.org

Service Committees:**Treatment/Accessibilities**

Robert C., 784-8514
bcrowe616@aol.com
treatment@district20aa.org
Business meeting the first
Thursday of each month at
7 p.m., 24 Hour Club

Corrections

Blake B., 285-7174
corrections@district20aa.org
Business meeting the second
Tuesday of each month at
5:30 p.m., 24 Hour Club

Public Information/CPC

Ronny P., 269-8251
Business meeting the first
Wednesday of each month at
7pm, 24 Hour Club

Grapevine

Mary B., 777-8066
Business meeting the third
Tuesday of each month at
5:30p.m., 24 Hour Club

Archives

Pete C., 784-7725
pete.curtner@yahoo.com

Literature

Lazaro T., 786-399-8708
Business Meeting

**Current Practices
Opportunity**

District 20 Website
Gary G., 877-6747

The Courier is published monthly by the *Naples Area Intergroup of Alcoholic Anonymous* with an office located at 1509 Pine Ridge Road, Unit B, 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 Wednesday of the
Month 7pm
Faith Lutheran Church
4150 Goodlette Road N.,
Naples, 34103
6pm GSR sharing
7pm Meeting

**Naples Intergroup/
Central Office**
1509 Pine Ridge Rd.
Unit B
Naples, FL., 34109
(next to 24 Hour
Club)

239-262-6535

**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

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

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SERVICE
helps us
stay sober

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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., Bruce W.,
Ron M., Gail W.
Ivan B.,
Nikki E.,
Mary B., Kathleen H.,
Mary Pat B., Opportunity
...and loyal Substitutes

After Hours Phone

Mary B., 877-8066