

THE COURIER

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



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February, 2019

God as He May Express Himself God as we Understand Him

Alcoholics Anonymous came into existence in 1935 at a time when much of our society was centered around the churches in the communities where we lived. Much of the South and the Midwest are still like that to this day. As a child in my home town, on Sunday morning I could look out the window and see a great majority of my neighbors walking to church. That was the way it was in the early 1940's. The book, Alcoholics Anonymous was published in 1939, and it seems that it was highly influenced by the many early members of the program at that time. A.A. could have, very easily become a religious program, but fortunately, the elders of that time realized, by the mistakes of the Oxford Group, and the Washingtonians, that they had to make it clear that, *a desire to stop drinking was the only requirement for membership*, and that the individual members could choose their own concept of a power greater than themselves, i.e. God as we understand him. In Tradition Two it says, "As He may express Himself in our group conscience" When the word God is used in the remainder of the book, it is not always followed by the "as we understand him" qualifier, and I believe that many members get the idea that somehow, they are trying to push religion on them. I think

that's understandable. When I was faced with that possibility, I personally found it easy enough to read the black part of the pages in the book and to not let myself become distracted by what I now recognized as a cultural norm at the time. I had no problem setting aside my religious bias and recognizing the parts of the Big Book and the 12X12 that clearly state all of the options available when it comes to finding a "power greater than myself", and I can name several right off top. 1) Alcohol itself was my higher power for a long time and still would be if hadn't gotten into the program. 2) My EGO ran my life for quite awhile until I got serious about Real life issues. 3) The A.A. program itself. I found myself spiritually lost when I surrendered and entered the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and when faced with the need to come to terms with the Higher Power issue, I now realize why it took such a long time to settle this subject. Years of drinking and an underdeveloped thinking process that was hard to get up to speed right away. As I got more familiar with the Big Book, and the 12X12, I started to uncover all the evidence that debunked the idea that I had to conform to any religious doctrine. In the 12X12 I read on page 26,

*"alcoholics anonymous does not demand that you to believe anything." On belief, "to acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A.A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could." (Pg.27) Also on page 26 where it states, "Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think..... A one-time vice-president of the American atheist Society ... got through with room to spare" Then on page 33 of the 12X12 it says "Therefore, Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this step." Today I am very comfortable with my own concept of a Higher Power and I use the word God only to put a name on a concept that has no physical form and I might say that it expresses itself in *the collective conscience of the world we live in*. I can assure you that if you read these qualifiers and practice the rest of the principals of the program, as enthusiastically as you can, you will come to terms with a personal concept of a higher power as well as any of us.*

STEP ONE: “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.”

TRADITION ONE: “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.”

TRADITION ONE (Long Form) : “Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.”

CONCEPT ONE: “Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

1st Step Prayer: I admit that I am powerless over my addiction. I admit that my life is unmanageable when I try to control it. Help me this day to understand the true meaning of powerlessness. Remove from me all denial of my addiction.

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

This is a Checklist for Tradition One:
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1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as “just for the sake of discussion,” plunge into argument?
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA in another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of AA?
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?

It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Recovery

Christmas Season 2018 may be over, but our life of sober holidays continues.

Would you be willing to carry that message to AAs all over the country?

Fortunate Pilgrim Productions, a Bonita Springs, Florida, company, is planning to produce a **radio play** entitled "Spiritual Awakening: An AA Christmas Carol." It is based on an original stage play of the same name. It was first performed in 1984 in Memphis, Tennessee, at the Bluff City AA Fellowship, the annual convention sponsored by members of the Memphis Area Intergroup. It has since been staged at AA conventions and at Recovery Centers (including The Betty Ford Center) throughout the United States.

The play tells the story of a practicing alcoholic, visited by spirits who show him his life: past, present and future as it has been affected by his alcoholism. The result of the visits brings about a change of mind and his desire to seek sobriety through Alcoholics Anonymous.

Although, as we know, the subject matter is deadly serious, the approach is full of humor and the joy of sobriety. Carrying this message is done through the music of the Christmas Season. **Secular Christmas songs** - not religious hymns - are presented with **recovery-related lyrics**. Since it is a radio play, images of the participants will not be used. Participants will be identified in the liner notes by first name and last initial only.

There is no financial compensation being offered or promised.

All profits from the production will be donated to alcoholism recovery programs that use the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The completed production will be burned on CD and made available for purchase at AA conventions and through the internet. Arrangements are in discussion to make it available to Intergroup Offices nationwide.

Each participant in the production will receive a copy of the completed CD.

Fortunate Pilgrim Productions is owned and operated by a recovered alcoholic with 36 years sobriety. He is the playwright and lyricist of "Spiritual Awakening." This project has been his dream and labor of love for decades. He needs your help to bring it to reality.

The production need actors (male and female of all ages) , good voices, singers, and musicians. Also, if anyone has access to recording equipment and/or a studio that we could use, it would save us much time and money. ***An artist to do the cover art would be a plus.***

If you are interested, please call the Naples AA Office (262-6535) or send a letter with your talent, age and experience to:

Fortunate Pilgrim Productions, P.O. Box 367088, Bonita Springs, FL 34136 or email fortunatepilgrimproductions@gmail.com.

Actual rehearsal and recording is expected to be in March or April 2019.

A Journey of **HOPE**

Getting right with this world is a wonderful quest,

When you've been to the gates of hell.

For we who used liquor, to soften the pain,

Know it usually doesn't end well.

We relied on our EGOs, to bolster our pride,

And support our old way of thinking.

Then slowly but surely, as things went awry,

We began to rely on our drinking.

Failures at life, loss of family and friends,

What a horrible price to pay.

When all else had failed, desperation stepped in,

And we entered the gates of A.A.

Surrounded by people, who'd been there before

And the help of Gods gentle sway,

A new life emerged, that we knew nothing of,

And our problems started fading away.

From the gates of hell, to the gates of A.A.,

To a journey you don't want to miss.

From the pain of the past to the hope of today,

Could it possibly all end in bliss?

If we practice the program, one step at a time,

Leaving nothing out from the start.

The final result will be happiness,

Peace of mind, and a quiet heart.

By Rick R.



AA

ELECTION

Congratulations To Our New Naples Intergroup Steering Committee Members...

Chairperson: Mary B., Naples Group

Vice Chair: Jim B., Bonita Step Group

Secretary: Peter F., Easy Does It Group

Treasurer: Ken H., Men's Step Group

The Naples Intergroup meets every Month, on the first Wednesday, at 7pm in the AA Office. The meeting is composed of the above Steering Committee members, the Office Manager and Intergroup Representative from all the registered AA Groups in the Naples Area.

All are welcome to visit and watch the business of AA in the Naples Area conducted.

Should anyone want to contact any member of the Steering Committee, all contact information is on our web site, www.aanaples.org. And can also be found in the Courier Newsletter on page 12.

A.A. Materials on YouTube



A YouTube channel has just been launched for A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.) and the A.A. General Service Office (G.S.O.). The new channel can be found at: [https:// www.youtube.com/c/ AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldSer - vicesInc](https://www.youtube.com/c/AlcoholicsAnonymousWorldServicesInc). It provides an additional plat-form from which A.A.W.S.-produced videos can be easily shared with a broad audience in order to enhance carrying the message to alcoholics, the general public and the professional community. The channel was started with three engaging public service announcements (PSAs): "Doors," "My World" and "I Have Hope" (all available in English, French and Spanish). More content will be added as it becomes available. For any questions or feedback related to the A.A.W.S./G.S.O. YouTube Channel, contact: commservices@aa.org.

Step One:

We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable. The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink. Our so-called willpower becomes practically non-existent. We are unable, at certain times, to bring into our consciousness with sufficient force the memory of the suffering and humiliation of even a week or a month ago. We are without defense against the first drink.

A.A. Big Book, p. 24—

Step 1 is the first step to freedom. I admit to myself that something is seriously wrong in my life. I have created messes in my life. Perhaps my whole life is a mess, or maybe just important parts are a mess. I admit this and quit trying to play games with myself anymore. I realize that my life has become unmanageable in many ways. It is not under my control anymore. I do things that I later regret doing and tell myself that I will not do them again. But I do. I keep on doing them, in spite of my regrets, my denials, my vows, my cover-ups and my facades. The addiction has become bigger than I am. The first step is to admit the truth of where I am, that I am really powerless over this addiction and that I need help.

12Step.org—

Why all this insistence that every A.A. must hit bottom first? The answer is that few people will sincerely try to practice the A.A. program unless they have hit bottom. For practicing A.A.'s remaining eleven steps means the adoption of attitudes and actions that almost no alcoholic who is still drinking can dream of taking. Who wishes to be rigorously honest and tolerant? Who wants to confess his faults to another and make restitution for harm done? Who cares anything about a Higher Power, let alone meditation and prayer? Who wants to sacrifice time and energy in trying to carry the A.A.'s message to the next sufferer? No, the average alcoholic, self-centered in the extreme, doesn't care for this prospect - unless he has to do these things in order to stay alive himself.

Under the lash of alcoholism, we are driven to A.A. and there we discover the fatal nature of our situation. Then, and only then, do we become open-minded to conviction and as willing to listen as the dying can be. We stand ready to do anything that will lift the merciless obsession from us.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 24 —

Tradition One - *Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on AA unity.*

The feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us. But that in itself would never have held us together as we are now joined.

Pg. 17 Chapter 2, Big Book

Applying Tradition 1 to Your Life:

Newcomers to a 12-step group will often place their entire focus on the Twelve Steps and pay less mind to the Twelve Traditions. In some ways, it's entirely understandable. As an individual, you want to reach your goal of sobriety. But unless you embrace the Twelve Traditions, your journey can become rudderless as you place "self" over others.

In the end, the Twelve Traditions provide the foundation by which individuals can navigate the Twelve Steps. Both are meant to provide us the framework by which to live our life, not just stop drinking.

As such, Tradition One can be applied to our family as much as to our group. By placing our family's common interests first, we can accomplish more and benefit from the unified support. This requires that each member of the family is heard, that their opinions be respected, and that consensus is reached whether we or anyone else in the family doesn't fully concur.

Living up to these principles takes work and dedication, but so does becoming a part of AA. Like every part of a 12-step program, the journey begins with the first step.

A HOLIDAY LETTER FROM OUR DISEASE

I HATE YOU!

I HATE YOUR MEETINGS, AND I HATE YOUR HIGHER POWER! I hate your program and I hate everyone who has a program! To all who come in contact with me, I wish nothing but shame, suffering and death!

Oh, don't you know me? I beg your pardon. Allow me to introduce myself- I am the disease of Alcoholism! Cunning, baffling, and powerful, that's me...

I have killed millions, and I am happy. I love to catch you by surprise. I love to pretend that I am your friend, and your lover. When trouble came into your life, wasn't I always there? When you wanted to die, didn't you call upon me? Together we destroyed just about every good thing in your miserable life.

People do not take me seriously. Not in the way in which they view heart attacks, strokes, or diabetes. Fools that they are, they do not realize that, without me, many of these things could not even be! I am a hated disease, yet I never come into your life uninvited. Many have chosen me over peace and reality.

But more, much more, than you may hate me, I hate anyone who has a 12-Step Program. Your program, your meetings, and your Higher Power weaken me; and I cannot function as I am accustomed to. When you only exist, I really live; when you really live, I only exist...

But my warning to you is that I am always here, waiting, watching growing stronger each time you skip your program. So, until we meet again, I wish you long-term pain, suffering, and madness—for I am the disease called Alcoholism!

Step One: The A. A. Launch Pad

She didn't find it Too Comforting.

By Rick R.

I was sitting at a meeting recently when I heard a very young, and very sincere, single mother of two, sharing that her first experience in A.A. was the thought of having to do all this stuff for *the rest of her life* and she *didn't find it too comforting*. It sounded to me that, from her perspective, *she knew that she had to do it, but it wasn't going to be easy or fun*. I admired her for her *courage and conviction* and I tried to encourage her by explaining things that I had experienced when I was faced with the life changing challenges of sobriety. I was the father of a boy, I was in the Navy at the time, and was divorced. It was a difficult time but I had to go through it, drinking or not. I began the process of recovery in a slow, methodical and thorough way, and I came out a stronger person for it. I likened it to the first *Apollo space mission to the moon*. *It goes something like this*: When you first see the size of this space craft and consider the amount of energy it would take to put it into space, it is hard to fathom. After the countdown is complete, the engines fire and a tremendous amount of flame and smoke engulf the entire area, and in a few moments, it slowly starts to lift off. As it lumbers its first few hundred feet, it is expending a tremendous amount of fuel. Slowly it starts to gain momentum and pick up speed, still shuddering along. Soon the booster tanks are depleted and they are ejected and the main tanks begin to propel it further along the flight path with even more thrust as it is reaching for orbit. Next, the main tank is depleted just before orbit and is ejected. What is left is a very small portion of what left the launch pad. Soon the craft leaves orbit and heads toward the moon and *something else happens that sometimes goes unnoticed*. Somewhere between the earth and the moon, the gravitational pull of the moon has more influence on the craft than the earth's has, and it is gently drawn along its path. Very little energy is needed at this point except for minor course corrections. In A.A; when we first get started, it appears to be an insurmountable task and it requires a tremendous amount of effort just to get off the launch pad. Not every launch is successful and some of us don't make it the first time, and we have to exert all that energy in each successive attempt. As we do get on our way, it starts to get easier as we increase our momentum. Much of the burden falls away as we make progress, and the going gets easier as we head for our objective. When we go through the *twelve steps*, we finally reach orbit. After we are satisfied that everything is in order, we can now set out for the moon. If we stay on course, the spiritual gravity of values we have adopted in the A.A. program will far outweigh the negative gravity of the past as long as we eject all of the dead weight that held us down. As we continue to adjust the day to day, mistakes that we make, and adopt an unselfish approach to life, somewhere along the flight path, we will cross that line where we are drawn towards a life of peace and serenity that is hard to imagine when we are setting on the launch pad. The most important part of the journey is the lift off. If we can get through that most difficult time, it does get easier, and then we need only to stay the course.

WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT

A recovering alcoholic is shipwrecked miles out to sea. He winds up on an uncharted, deserted island and has to make the best of it. Five years later, he finally spots a ship out on the horizon and stokes up his bonfire to get its attention.

The captain of the ship, another recovering alcoholic, sees the fire and immediately changes course towards the island. Meanwhile, he grabs his binoculars and studies the situation. He sees a guy waving and running frantically up and down the beach, his beard hanging down to his knees. He also spots three small structures at the edge of the trees.

The castaway is rescued, taken below, and is given a meal and some time to rest and is sent up to see the captain. "So, are you glad to be rescued?" "Oh, yeah, you bet. I've been praying for years for somebody to come along." "How long were you on the island?" "Five loooooong years!" "All by yourself?" "Yes. All alone for five long years." "Well," observed the captain. "It looks like you didn't do too badly for yourself. I see three huts on the island. Did you build them?" "Oh, yes!" the castaway responds proudly.

"I built them with my own two hands! See the one on the right? That was my house, my home. That's where I lived. And the one on the left, that's my home group!" "Your home group? You're by yourself for five years and you build yourself a home group! That's fantastic! What a strong statement of faith and dedication to your program! I'm proud of you! What a testimony of experience, strength and hope! But what about the hut in the middle?" "Oh," the castaway frowns, "That's my old home group; I didn't like the way they ran things."

FINANCES

Dec. 2018

Income

Literature/Merchandise

Group Contributions

AA Birthdays

Faithful Five

Anonymous

Total Income**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees

Travel/Licenses/Permits

Office Supplies

License/Permits

Payroll Net

Payroll Tax

Postage

Printing

Purchases/Lit./Merch.

Insurance

Rent

Sales Tax

Telephone/www

Utilities

Contributions

Computer Software

Computer Maintenance

Computer Equipment

Total Expenses**Net Ordinary Income**

Other Income

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

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	DEC	YTD
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482	0	94
Aprendiendo A Vivre, 176467	0	0
Back To Basics	0	0
Beach Bums 641645	0	250
Big Book Comes Alive, 710427	0	98
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101	0	118
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630	0	70
Big Book Study, 662395	0	0
Bonita Awareness, 124788	0	0
Bonita Banyan, 176463	0	0
Bonita Beginners	0	198
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997	0	1,405
Bonita Men, 654428	0	0
Bonita Saturday Night	0	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493	0	1,010
Bonita Springs Women's 169127	0	583
Bonita Springs Step, 134588	0	359
Bonita Unity, 103316	0	200
Bring Your Own Big Book	0	192
Brown Bag, 163924	0	680
Burning Desire, 653891	0	200
Cake Meeting	0	25
Came to Believe, 615490	0	0
Candlelight, 606877	0	0
Common Solutions, 179613	0	1,377
Early Reflections, 653770	0	1,008
Early Riser, 161795	0	1,008
East Trail, 150873	0	0
Easy Does It, 156979	0	950
Free 2 Be, 6700930	0	362
Friday Big Book	0	50
Girlfriends, 678117	0	50
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	383
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950	0	175
Lil'White House	0	456
Living Sober, 605904	0	37
Living Sober Isle of Capri	0	0
Men Of Naples, 634030	0	585
Morning Reflections, 660700	0	711
Naples Group, 103609	0	500
Naples Men's, 694322	0	75
Naples South, 130210	0	234
Naples Young People, 699130	0	0
New Dawn, 632504	0	1,200
New Women (Thursday noon)	0	400
Newcomers Coming Together, 684199	0	0
No Compromise, 681260	0	0
Not A Glum Lot	0	80
Nueva Vida	0	0
Old Timers, 698956	0	0
One Day At A Time, 120975	0	225

Group/Meeting	DEC	YTD
Our Common Welfare	0	210
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323	0	0
Pay It Forward, 704772	0	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715	0	1,125
Saturday Morning Girlfriends	0	0
Spiritual Solutions, 720796	0	0
Start Where You Are	0	0
Step By Step	0	384
Still Living Sober, 624730	0	0
Students of the Steps, 635600	0	0
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079	0	122
Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959	0	411
Sunset Serenity, 654981	0	0
Survivor's, 157268	0	100
SW 239 BID	0	134
Swamp Group, 672733	0	80
Tables of Naples, 147671	0	250
Third Tradition, 143298	0	60
Three Legacies, 679400	0	75
Thursday Women	0	200
Unity Noon Step	0	195
Unity Step	0	133
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923	0	150
Wanderers, Ave Maria	0	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011	0	549
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.



Powerlessness with alcohol appeared when I tried to make decisions about the amounts, frequency and situations of my drinking. More and more the plan did not go as I hoped. The more I lost power over alcohol, the more life situations became unmanageable. The idea that the alcohol was causing my problems was something that I had to come to grips with in order to be open to recovery. In the Doctor's Opinion, starting on page XXV in the book Alcohol Anonymous, Dr. Silkworth states that "the action of alcohol.... is a manifestation of an all- limited to this class and never oc- men and woman drink essentially by alcohol.... they are restless, irrita- again experience the sense of ease taking a few drinks....they succumb non of craving develops.....they pass morseful...this is repeated over and rience an entire psychic change ery.....they have one symptom in without developing the phenome- consequences from drinking I was an obsession of the mind when towards when I could drink again. I



not drinking today so I could drink the way I wanted to tomorrow. This obsession of the mind coupled with craving after the first drink, left me drinking to excess or thinking of the next time I could drink. This cycle continued for eight years, with me constantly attempting to control my drinking. I was powerless over alcohol. The drink controlled me when drinking; and the obsession of the mind controlled me when abstaining. In the chapter "More about Alcoholism" our founders stated that "most of us have been unwilling to admit we were real alcoholics....the idea that somehow, someday he will control and enjoy his drinking is the great obsession of every abnormal drinker." The book lists some of the ways we tried to drink like other people. I had many. Any alcoholic can name some of their own ways they tried to make the drink right.

We alcoholics suffer from an illness that is more than just drinking too much. There was something wrong in my head before I picked up the first drink. The feeling of not being right is something alcohol relieved early in my drinking. The alcohol solution not working any more was a great mystery, till I found the common solution in the book Alcoholics Anonymous. If you can say you are powerless over alcohol and that your life is unmanageable then you have taken the first and necessary step towards recovering from alcoholism. —

Dan S. Prescott Valley, AZ

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	23	Easy Does It
Bill S.	01/11/02	16	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:
Mike B., 465-7823
chair@district20aa.org
Alt. Chair:
Robert C., 784-8514
altchair@district20aa.org
Treasurer:
Mary B., 777-8066
treasurer@district20aa.org
Registrar:
Jordon M., 331-9545
registrar@district20aa.org
Secretary:
Tiffany M., 227-8669
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/Literature

Mary B., 777-8066
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

Peggy P.E., 269-7651

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

District 20**Business Meeting:**

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

**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)

Delegate: Shirley P.
delegate@areal5aa.org

Alternate: Tom W.
altdelegate@areal5aa.org

Chair: Cary W.
chair@areal5aa.org

Treasurer: Lisa D.
PO Box 1784
Pompano Beach, FL
33061
treasurer@areal5aa.org

Registrar: Wayne H.
registrar@areal5aa.org

Secretary: Kevin D.
PO Box 842

Naples Intergroup**Trusted Servants****Chair:**

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mbrown8869@earthlink.net

Vice Chair:

Jim B., 300-5891
mabopx3a@gmail.com

Secretary:

Peter F., 877-7450
pflrmin1@aol.com

Treasurer:

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

Members at Large:

Opportunity
Opportunity
Opportunity

+www

Mary B., 777-8066
mbrown8869@earthlink.net

Office Manager:

Bill S., 249-0523 (cell)
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naplesintergroup@yahoo.com
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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., Patrick S.
...and loyal Substitutes

After Hours Phone

Mary B., 777-8066