

# THE COURIER

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



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

July, 2019



## Don't Forget Service!

## Finding **VALUE**



In retrospect, I can see that service was an essential component of my recovery from alcoholism. When I first came to A.A., I was full of fear, self-pity and self-concern. I was all that I could think about. I had so many problems, that it was difficult to concentrate for long on any one thing.

My sponsor soon found many things for me to do. Emptying and washing ash trays; making coffee; setting up chairs; and later, taking people to meetings, going on Twelfth Step calls and sponsorship. All of these activities had two things in common; I was performing a service that helped the alcoholic that still suffered and I was getting out of myself and becoming a useful member of the fellowship. Service enables us to fulfill our REAL purpose, "to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." (Big Book, p. 77), and we discover, in time, that which Bill and Dr. Bob discovered long ago. "Though they knew they must help other alcoholics if they would remain sober, that motive became secondary. It was transcended by the happiness they found in giving themselves for others." (Big Book, p. 159) One of the greatest gifts I have received from Alcoholics Anonymous; the joy I find in serving God and my fellow man.

Sloppy drunk, and weeping uncontrollably, I sat on my bedroom floor writing my suicide note. I wrote a detailed description of my deep despair and how the world would be better off without me. I was 22 years old and had no idea that the problem was my drinking.

Approximately 35 days and almost 60 meetings later, I experienced the inner glow of my first successful Twelfth Step. Someone even newer than me hugged me and told me that my sharing made her feel like she was in the right place. It was a magical moment when I connected the concept of being sober in A.A. with having something of value to give to someone in need. After I'd done some more twelve-stepping under my sponsor's watchful eye, someone told me about the bigger picture and a place for me in it. I could help make sure that the hand of A.A. would be there when someone in need reached out for it. I started that journey of "carrying the message" with answering phones at the A.A. Desk. I learned a lot in those 3-hour shifts.

Our Intergroup Office is full of learning materials: books, pamphlets, intergroup newsletters, General Service reports and publications, Conference Reports, Grapevine magazines, Box 459 newsletters, histories of groups and A.A. pioneers in the DC area, guidance on how A.A. works through the Traditions and Concepts, and tapes of A.A. talks. There was a bulletin board full of sober happenings that I could participate in or assist with — conferences, workshops, General Service Assemblies, group celebrations, anniversaries, trips, plays, dances, special speaking events, retreats, banquets, and picnics. There was a steady stream of people I had never met, most of whom were delighted to come lead a meeting I chaired and who often

**STEP SEVEN:** :Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

**TRADITION SEVEN:** “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”

**TRADITION SEVEN (Long Form):** “The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority,”

**CONCEPT SEVEN:** “The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.”

*7Th Step Prayer:* “My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character Which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here to do your bidding.”

## TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

This is a Checklist for Tradition SEVEN  
Reprinted with permission from Service Material from the General Service

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?



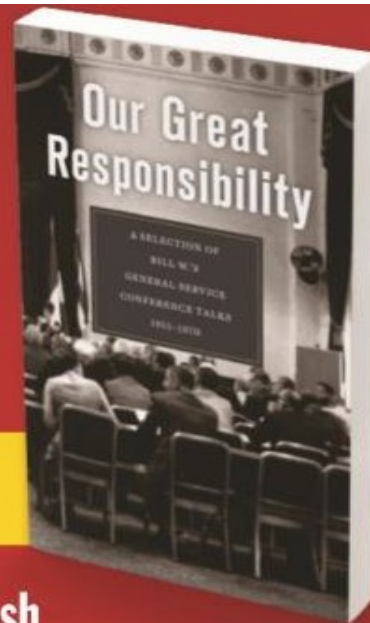
The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme “Love and Tolerance is our Code.” A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.’s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and 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.

Announcing  
publication of...

# Our Great Responsibility

*A Selection of Bill W.'s  
General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970*



**Timeless and timely, these 16 talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words.**

- ❖ 270 pages, softcover with over 60 black-and-white and color images
- ❖ Derived from original audio recordings
- ❖ Featuring material never before published from the G.S.O. Archives

The first original title released by Alcoholics Anonymous since *Daily Reflections*, the book **Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951–1970** is now available for order in English, French and Spanish. Publication of this important volume culminates years of research and transcription of archived audio recordings of Bill W. addressing the General Service Conference. Complementing the text are more than sixty photographs and other images from the A.A. Archives — some never before published. Timeless and timely, these 16 talks give fresh perspectives on the A.A. Fellowship in our co-founder's own words.

## Having sober fun at BBQ's and other summertime events

When I was newly sober, I used to wonder, what sober people did to have fun. I also used to wonder about how I would be able to attend family functions. I have some family that don't suffer from this disease and they drink. But first thing was first. I was so blessed to have gotten into the Twelve Steps so early in my sobriety. Through me fully and thoroughly working the Twelve Steps, God took away my mental obsession and desire to drink. For the first six to eight months sober, I didn't want to be around people who drink. Not because I felt tempted, but because it's annoying dealing with some who get drunk when you're sober. I now have been around people drinking. I've been in establishments that serve alcohol. but I went there with proper intentions, which was to simply attend a get together that was going on. The Big Book tells us how, when we work the Steps and have the obsession removed, we will recoil from alcohol just like a flame. It states that we cease fighting anyone or anything, that includes alcohol. Now, I don't just go to bars to hang out. But if I am prayed up and am at a place with alcohol I won't be tempted.

I have come to learn that in sobriety you could still have amazing times. I go to Cedar Point, I travel, go bowling, I've even been to concerts. And not once did I want to drink. There are people I am close to that can have a couple of drinks normally. But I can't expect them not to enjoy themselves just because I am there. I know what happens when I drink. I always keep that up front. I also would never put myself in a situation to feel tempted. Those that I hang with are aware that I am sober, and they respect that fact.

If a person decides to drink, they can do that alone. If someone is looking for excuses to pick up, they can justify anything. I really wouldn't suggest those who are newly sober to put themselves around people who drink, or to go to places where there is drinking. For me, to be where I am in my sobriety didn't happen overnight. I put massive work and action to build me a strong and firm foundation. So, for someone that has not had their mental obsession lifted, they should-

n't risk going around people or places that have alcohol. When someone is new into sobriety, they're very fragile. Even though my mental obsession has been lifted, God gave human beings something that no other creation has, which is power of choice, also known as free will. At any given time, I could pick up a drink. Nobody in recovery is ever cured from alcoholism. But for a little over five years now I choose to not drink. I am very much aware of what

happens when I drink. My life is amazing today.

If someone is newly sober and wants to go to a family function or somewhere that alcohol is served, it's vital to follow suggestions that we are taught; like take a person that's been sober for a while to come with them; to always make sure they have a way to leave when they start feeling squirrely; and to make sure they say the Third Step and Seventh Step prayers. All the things that are taught to us in recovery are always for a reason. So, to anyone that may be new to sobriety I will tell you this; we can have amazing fun in sobriety. I have and still do. Thanks to all who take the time to read this.

Moe A, Wednesday Mixed Discussion, Akron Intergroup News, July, 2019





## Breaking the Multigenerational Cycle of Alcoholism

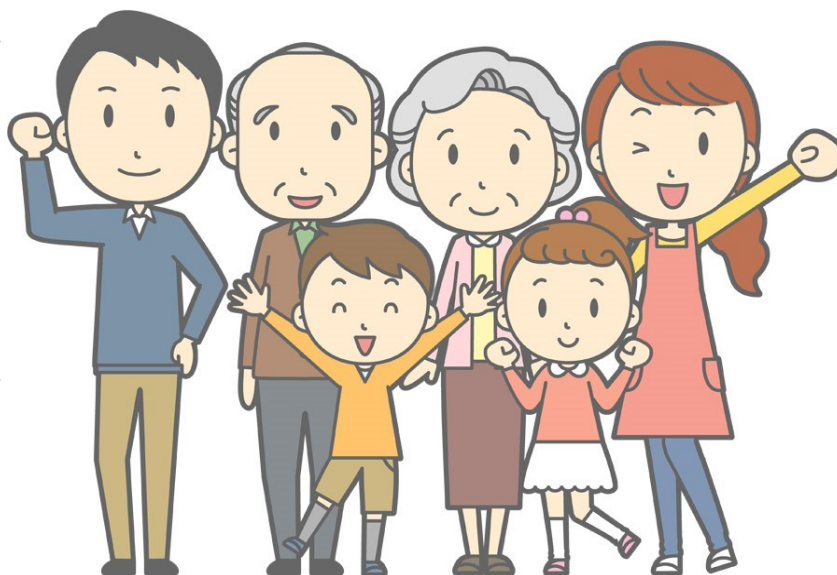
Our Children need a Safe Environment

By Rick R.

Early in my first marriage I could easily rationalize all of my alcoholic behaviors. These things meant nothing to me, at the time, but *that all changed the day that I became a father*. It didn't change my behavior but it *did affect my conscience*. From that day forward I felt guilty about my inability to be a good father and as the result, my only son developed problems as bad as, or worse than mine. My wife

and I separated and were divorced within two years of his birth and I got sober one year after that and have been sober ever since. My current wife of forty eight years and I have done everything we could to be *supportive of my first wife* and my son from a distance and as he turned ten years old, she asked us if we would take custody

of him, since she was still having difficulties of her own and we understood and gladly accepted her offer. This was the right thing to do but it didn't solve my son's problem. *He was damaged and the die was cast*. He struggled with drugs and alcohol problems into his late forties and is now in the program, *sober for seven years and doing well*. From this experience and from the observation of the newer members that come to us in the midst of a divorce or a marriage *influenced by alcohol or drugs*, the children are often emotionally damaged and have very *little chance of evolving into healthy adults*. Some of the symptoms I've read about are as follows: Children of alcoholics **endure chronic and extreme levels of tension and stress**. At times, children of alcoholics **may begin to feel as though they are responsible for the problems and are likely to developing problems with drugs and alcohol**



**themselves.** These are just a few of the things that I and my family have experienced firsthand and it was not a pretty sight. There were many sleepless night in sobriety wondering where my son was and fearing the worst. It took many years of anguish before he finally surrendered and we finally had some peace of mind. My experience concerning this situation is to give some perspective on this matter in order to minimize the emotional damage to the children when the parents either divorce or reconcile their marriage. Divorces are messy with the pain and disappointment of a failed relationship and my divorce was no different. Fortunately for us, I realized that *my child would be witness to how I treated his*

*mom* and from that day foreword I have not been critical about her in or out of his presence. I only talk understanding and compassion and I taught him that same principle, and in time, she came around to the same way of thinking, and we all moved on with grace. When my grandson was born, the same thing happened when his mom and dad separated and my wife and I had a the chance to provide virtually all of

his daycare, and we had the opportunity to shield him from most of the trauma by providing him with a safe environment, with love and comfort, explaining to him that they were good people but they have problems and we cannot judge them but we can help them when they are ready. The main thing was the *safe environment part*. We had the opportunity to walk him through these things with compassion and understanding. I am happy to say that he just completed his first year of college at the age nineteen with virtually no signs of emotional damage, no drugs or alcohol, no smoking of any kind and very mature. He talks to us freely about any and all subjects. We can break the cycle but we must get our priorities straight as soon as possible, consider the damage to our children, put the past behind us and we must be strong enough to forgive. Every minute counts if we want to break the cycle.

## The Power In Surrender

In recovery I have been taught that I must surrender to my powerlessness. When I arrived in the rooms I knew I was powerless -- all the times I tried to control my disease proved counted days I wasn't only to be selfloath-shame the succumb-craving.



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Once sober I began to get some clarity, and as I worked through the steps I realized that when I tried to control my surroundings and resisted the work I needed to do, my sense of powerlessness grew. When I surrendered and did the work, followed the suggestions of old timers and my sponsor, I found that I had some power -- if only in the sense that I began to understand that my disease, once considered my best friend, was actually my enemy and it was trying to kill me.

My disease and I had adventures -- that's for sure. We created tons of secrets, and instead of sharing the shame, I carried it for the both of us. I personified alcohol because then I could understand better how it tricked me -- how it would sit like an abusive boyfriend luring me at every turn with promises it will be different this time. It would put romantic notions in my head of all we could accomplish together, when in fact he just wanted me face down in the gutter and wouldn't be happy until I was dead. I realized I was helpless against his charms and the only way to stop falling for his tricks is to get far away and surround myself with friends who could shield me until I was strong enough to stand alone. I had to realize that a power greater than myself was the only thing that could restore order in my life after the wreckage of my affair with alcohol. There was great power in and releasing control. I could learn to become the person my higher power intended me to be, and that was a pretty powerful place to be.

Continued from page 1

asked me to return the favor. There were small clerical tasks I could do to assist the office in providing its services to the many groups in DC: preparing and distributing the monthly newsletter and other mailings, maintaining the list of 12- Step volunteers and treatment center contacts, and updating the meeting lists.

I also enjoyed the challenge of getting to know more about the meetings I was directing people to. Like any enthusiastic over zealous alcoholic young in sobriety, I made it my mission to visit all the meetings listed in the *Where & When* so I could tell someone with confidence that a particular meeting was just inside the door at the bottom of the steps; or that there was a big parking lot behind the church; or that it was a small, warm, friendly, intimate group; or that it was a large, happy, loud group with a greeter at the door and lots of young people. Often knowing those details helps ensure someone else feels a little less threatened by going to their first meeting. Most of all, I found that I got considerable satisfaction out of being the calm, reassuring voice for someone who needed the hand of A.A. to be there when they reached out.

In the 33 years since I got sober, I've traveled a bit, and I know the warm sense of relief when I call the local A.A. number. Just knowing I've got someone on the phone who understands how it feels to be a drunk reaching bottom and what it takes to get and stay sober in the program ensures that I don't feel alone in a strange place. It connects me with a Higher Power and my community wherever I am. It reminds me that, no matter what, I don't have to do anything alone. The Big Book says "the feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us" and I find great joy when I've connected with someone on that basis. Whether it's someone visiting the DC area who needs to make that connection, or it's a crying, frightened drunk seeking an answer, the ability to share with them all we have to offer is a tremendous boost to my spiritual condition. I've done a variety of service jobs at all levels in the DC area. Everyone needs to try out different things to find what works best for them. For me, working a regular shift on the A.A. Desk is the most rewarding one for my own spiritual, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

Let me challenge you to try a couple of shifts on the phones to see what it can do for you. There's always room for more volunteers.

Katherine R. (Rockville, MD)

## “Who pays the piper calls the tune” the seed of the Seventh Tradition

With the realization that A.A. must steer clear of outside contributions in order to maintain its autonomy and independence came the understanding that the money necessary for A.A.'s survival would have to come from individual A.A. members and groups. As Bill W. put it in 1957, “Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to receive money from the outside world. But this leaves us with a responsibility — **one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid.**” “When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.” (The Language of the Heart, p. 221)

To help support A.A.'s essential services, the General Service Conference suggests that individual groups, through an informed group conscience, adopt a specific contribution plan tailored to meet the group's financial situation. Once the basic group expenses have been taken care of, for example: (rent, refreshments, A.A. literature, Grapevine literature, G.S.R. travel expenses to attend service functions), and a “prudent reserve” has been set aside to cover any emergency contingencies that might arise, the group may decide to further carry the message by sending money to the following A.A. service entities...

►The local district, (**District 20**) which communicates directly with the groups, providing the district group conscience for the area assemblies, and serving as a link between the area delegates and the G.S.R.s.

►The area committee, (**Area 15**) which coordinates vital A.A. activities over a broad geographic area (sends a delegate to the annual General Service Conference); holds area assemblies to determine the needs of the Fellowship; and provides information at all levels of service.

►The local intergroup or central office, (**Naples area Intergroup/Central Office**) which provides 24 hour phone service for Twelfth Step calls and other inquiries; coordination of group activities; A.A. literature sales; publishes an Area meeting schedule and publishes a monthly Newsletter (**The Courier**) maintains a website ([www.aanaples.org](http://www.aanaples.org)); institutions work; public information and cooperation with the professional community activities.

►A.A.'s General Service Office in New York, which functions as a storehouse of A.A. information, communicating with members and groups around the world; publishes all A.A.'s literature; and supplies information and experience to professionals and others interested in A.A.

Money has never been a requirement for A.A. membership, and to keep it that way all of A.A.'s trusted servants have an ongoing obligation to inform groups and individuals about the value of self-support and the need for voluntary contributions throughout the Fellowship. Many groups in reaching an informed group conscience look to their general service representatives (G.S.R.s) for specific information about finances, or to their intergroup representatives or group treasurer. Many find that participation in local, area, and regional A.A. service events provides a good source of information about A.A.'s financial needs. And at the General Service Office, A.A.'s financial affairs are an open book, with financial summaries published quarterly and a full accounting printed each year in the Final Conference Report.

While the Fellowship has always faced problems of money, property, and prestige in one form or another, through the wisdom of the Seventh Tradition we have never been diverted from our primary purpose of carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers — wherever he or she may be. This is the fundamental work of Alcoholics Anonymous, and to ensure that the hand of A.A. will always remain outstretched, money and spirituality must continue to mix. And for that, we are all responsible.

## SUGGESTED GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

### WHEN A.A. FIRST STARTED:

Car: \$580  
Coffee: 26 cents/lb  
Butter: 36 cents/lb  
Milk: 23cents/1/2 gal  
Gasoline: 19 cents/gal  
House: \$6,300  
Bread: 8 cents/loaf  
Milk: 47 cents/gal  
Postage Stamp: 3 cents  
Average Annual Salary:  
\$1,500

10%

#### District 20:

Treasurer  
P.O. Box 2896  
Naples, FL  
34106

10%

#### Area 15:

Lisa D., Treasurer  
P.O. Box  
Pompano Beach, FL  
33061

50%

#### Naples Area Intergroup/Central Office:

1509-2 Pine Ridge Rd  
Naples, FL  
34109

30%

#### General Service Office:

G.S.O.  
P.O. Box 459  
New York, N.Y.  
10163

**CONTRIBUTIONS MAY ALSO BE MADE TO: TREATMENT COMMITTEE  
AND**

**CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE  
SEND TO NAPLES AREA INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICE FOR DISBURSEMENT**

**FINANCES****JUNE****YTD****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	3,073	25,365
Group Contributions	1,101	12,840
AA Birthdays	10	410
Faithful Five	30	110
Anonymous		

**Total Income**

4,214 38,725

**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees	76	530
Travel/Licenses/Permits		
Office Supplies		653
License/Permits		
Payroll Net	1,711	10,266
Payroll Tax		2,227
Postage		
Printing		
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	750	
Insurance		
Rent	500	
Sales Tax	243	
Telephone/www	209	
Utilities	100	700
Contributions		173
Computer Software	363	735
Computer Equip./Maintain	100	498
Travel		218
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	4,053	38,513
<b><u>Net Ordinary Income</u></b>	162	212
Other Income	918	918
Other Expenses	793	793
<b><u>NET OTHER INCOME</u></b>	125	125
<b><u>NET INCOME</u></b>	286	336

## 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*

Group/Meeting	JUNE	YTD
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482	45	110
24 Hour Solution	0	69
Aprendiendo 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	355
Bonita Beginners	0	0
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997	0	1,125
Bonita Men, 654428	0	200
Bonita Saturday Night	0	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493	0	439
Bonita Springs Women's 169127	0	652
Bonita Springs Step, 134588	0	40
Bring Your Own Big Book	0	0
Brown Bag, 163924	0	1,399
Burning Desire, 653891	0	0
Cake Meeting 701813	0	50
Came to Believe, 615490	0	0
Candlelight, 606877	0	0
Comes Of Age	0	0
Common Solutions, 179613	0	400
Early Reflections, 653770	0	0
Early Riser, 161795	0	1,230
East Trail, 150873	0	0
Easy Does It, 156979	0	1,050
Free 2 Be, 6700930	0	170
Friday Big Book	0	0
Girlfriends, 678117	0	22
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	200
Lil' White House 721896	0	116
Living Sober, 605904	0	0
Living Sober Isle of Capri	0	0
Men Of Naples, 634030	0	0
Monday Night Men Step 724529	150	150
Morning Reflections, 660700	0	78
Naples Group, 103609	0	350
Naples Men's, 694322	0	200
Naples South, 130210	0	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
Old Timers, 698956	0	0

Group/Meeting	JUNE	ytd
One Day At A Time	227	227
Our Common Welfare	0	77
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323	0	0
Pay It Forward, 704772	0	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715	0	675
Saturday Morning Girlfriends 678117	0	154
Saturday Night Live	0	50
Spiritual Solutions, 720796	0	0
Start Where You Are	0	0
Step By Step	108	108
Still Living Sober, 624730	0	0
Students of the Steps, 635600	0	0
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079	0	196
Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959	0	0
Sunset Serenity, 654981	0	0
Survivor's, 157268	0	50
SW 239 BID	0	0
Swamp Group, 672733	0	0
Tables of Naples, 147671	100	211
Third Tradition, 143298	0	60
Three Legacies, 679400	0	0
Thursday New Women	400	400
Unity Monday Noon Step	71	301
Unity Step	0	56
Veranda	0	80
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923	0	0
Wanderers, Ave Maria	0	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011	0	217
Wednesday Step St. Johns	0	85
Where Are We	0	0
Women's Spirit	0	0
Women's Step, 159957	0	0

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



## You Know It's Hot When...

You go outside for a smoke and the cigarette lit itself.

The change in my purse melted into a medallion.  
My Reese's peanut butter cups turned into peanut  
butter shooters... I drank them anyway.

You can make instant sun tea.

Hot water now comes out of both taps.

# HOT

Margie, we'll call her, was a hard-drinking young woman who loved the men. And the men loved her. One night, after hours in a Pittsburgh suburb, Margie and a couple of the guys decided to go skinny-dipping in the Allegheny River. They were caught, arrested, and spent the night in jail. Years later, Margie told her story at an AA meeting in one of Pittsburgh's affluent suburbs. When the meeting was over, a sweet young thing approached Margie, shook her hand, and exclaimed: "I loved your story, Margie. But what is skinny-dipping?" "I don't know what it is where you come from, honey," Margie replied, "but in my neighborhood it's thirty dollars or thirty days."



## Just published!

Best Jokes & Cartoons from AA Grapevine Sobriety can be tough sometimes, which is why recovering alcoholics can always use a good laugh. In AA, members learn to not take themselves too seriously, to be happy, joyous and free.

Luckily, sobriety can be pretty darn amusing. Two of the most beloved departments of Grapevine are the "At Wit's End" jokes and the cartoons, all contributed and drawn by AA members.

**Take Me To Your Sponsor** contains some of the best laughs of the last few years, dealing with meetings, sponsorship, dating and marriage, friends and coworkers, character defects and more.

We're hoping that **Take Me To Your Sponsor** will brighten your day and give you some hearty, well-earned laughs.

Available at AA Central Office.

Dear Lord ...

Grant me the serenity to  
accept stupid people the way  
they are, the courage to  
maintain my self-control, and  
the wisdom to know that if I act  
on it, I will go to jail!



# 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	39	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., <sup>(04/17)</sup>, RON L., <sup>(07/19)</sup>, CHUCK W., <sup>(03/17)</sup>,

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

THERESA R., <sup>MONTHLY</sup>, JEFFREY S., <sup>MONTHLY</sup>,

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



**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:**  
Dianna M., 248-6565  
secretary@district20aa.org

**Service Committees:****Treatment/Accessibilities**

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

**Corrections**

Jeff K., 776-5673  
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

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

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

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

**Treatment  
Commitments****DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER**

Every day except  
Wednesday  
7:00 p.m.

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

**NAPLES COMMUNITY  
HOSPITAL**

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

**WILLOUGH**

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

**HAZELDEN**

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

**BRIDGING THE GAP**

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

**MONTHLY  
NAPLES  
INTERGROUP  
MEETING**

**Central Office**  
**1509-2 Pine Ridge Rd.**

**(next to 24 Hour Club)**

**First Wednesday of  
month at 7:00pm**

**Area 15; Panel 69**

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

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delegate@areal5aa.org

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registrar@areal5aa.org

**Secretary:** Kevin D.  
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West Palm Beach, FL

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

**Treasurer:**  
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kenahelton@gmail.com

**Members at Large:**

Jill L.  
Ralph W.  
Rhett A.

**www**  
Mary B., 777-8066  
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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