

THE COURIER

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



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

June, 2019

12th Annual A.A. Intergroup Picnic June 23, 2019 11AM-3PM

Vineyards Park
6231 Arbor Blvd W,
Naples, FL 34119

\$5 Per Person

**Food
Music
Games**

Fellowship

**Burgers, Hot Dogs Coleslaw &
Potato Salad included in ticket price.**

**Please bring - Drinks, Chips, Desserts,
Additional Side Dishes & Ice - Coolers Permitted.**

Limited Seating - Bring your lawn chairs.

Don't forget your hats and sunscreen.

**Free Games Include: Horseshoes, Cornhole,
Volleyball, Basketball and More!**

**Play the A.A. Countdown
& Test your A.A. IQ
for a special Prize.**

**50/50
Raffle**

Speaker: TBD



Hosted by: The Comes of Age Group

For More Information Contact Intergroup Central Office at 239-262-6535

Happy Birthday, A.A., 84 years, one day at a time!

STEP SIX: “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”

TRADITION SIX: “An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

TRADITION SIX (Long Form) : “Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.- and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.”

CONCEPT SIX: “The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.”

6Th Step Prayer: I am ready for Your help in removing from me the defects of character which I now realize are an obstacle to my recovery. Help me to continue being honest with myself and guide me toward spiritual and mental health.

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

This is a Checklist for Tradition SIX
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1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with “Guidelines on Clubs” (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor’s advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?



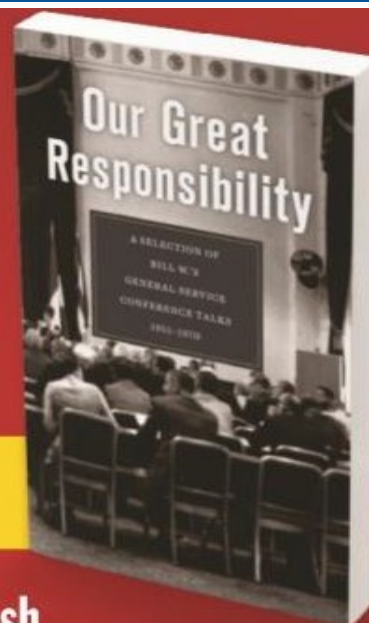
The 2020 International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held July 2–5, 2020 in Detroit, Michigan with the theme “Love and Tolerance is our Code.” A.A. members and guests from around the world will celebrate A.A.’s 85th year at this event with big meetings held Friday night, Saturday night and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

MAKING IT THROUGH THE STEPS

Why is it that so many alcoholics (who have already become involved with A.A. at some level) continue to procrastinate when it comes to taking the Steps? I know this was a problem with me for several years, and it resulted in my succumbing to one relapse after another. Our founders gave us the assurance that, "Seldom have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path." But that was just my problem - I wasn't really following any path, much less thoroughly following A.A.'s pathway to recovery. I was basically just hanging out at meetings. At its core our disease is a constellation of various character defects we all share. The Big Book and 12&12 go to great lengths to

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normalcy he might otherwise possess. One of the traits that make up this collection of character flaws is procrastination. When I was young there were definite traces of procrastination in my behavior, but they were nothing like the devastating and paralyzing tendency to put things off that would later develop as my disease progressed. Is it any wonder then that once I got into A.A. I would procrastinate hugely when it came to take the Steps?

INSIGHT #1: In my opinion, if there is a "secret" to making it through the Steps it is likely this: TAKE THE FIRST STEP! Take it honestly, take it fully, and take it without reservation. If we can do this, really and truly do it, the remainder of the Steps should by all rights fall inexorably into place - like a row of dominoes tumbling forward until that last domino is reached. Once energy has been applied to the first domino (as we push it forward - i.e. take the first step), that energy is then transferred into the second domino and in turn transferred into the third domino, and so on. With the Steps, once we have legitimately taken Step One, the initial momentum generated by that act carries us in near automatic fashion through the remaining eleven steps, one step after another. The critical takeaway here is that we do not need to take long, drawn-out pauses after finishing each step-in order to rest up, recoup or contemplate the necessity of continuing to move forward. No,

at the point where we have finished one step we are already on the next step! In other words, the Steps can profitably be viewed as more of a continuum rather than as a series of separate, independent actions. INSIGHT #2: We are all familiar with the expression "hitting bottom," and we know that while we are still "out there" in our disease we are simply not going to decide to start following A.A.'s pathway to recovery, the 12 Steps. It is only when our internal, psychic pain level has become so intense that it reaches critical mass that we finally give up on our old delusions and excuses and become fully open to receiving help. At this juncture we have finally had enough, our resistance evaporates, and we figuratively throw up our hands and proclaim, "OK, I give up. Just tell me what I need to do to make all this stop and I'll do it." Whether or not we realize it at the time, it is at this point of hitting bottom and finally raising our hands in surrender that we have arrived slam-bang in the middle of Step One. In other words, hitting bottom and taking the First Step are essentially overlapping events. Just because we are in A.A., that does not necessarily mean that we have hit bottom yet. In my own case I got into A.A. (through the court slip route) a good while before I had hit bottom, and therefore I had no inclination initially to make the major surrender embodied in the taking of Step One. It has been said that the First Step is the only one that needs to be done perfectly. Step One is all about giving up, and until we finally hit bottom we cannot force or talk ourselves into taking this crucial step of surrender. "Who cares to admit complete defeat? Practically no one, of course. All our nature instinct cries out against the idea of personal powerlessness. It is truly awful to admit that, glass in hand, we have warped our minds into such an obsession for destructive drinking that only an act of Providence can remove it from us. ... But upon entering A.A. we soon take quite another view of this absolute humiliation. We perceive that only through utter defeat are we able to take our first steps toward liberation and strength. Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turned out to be the firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built." (12&12, p. 21) Without complete surrender we are simply not going to have the willingness and humility necessary to do what is required of us in order to become spiritually fit (i.e. sober). "Why all this insistence that every A.A. must hit bottom? 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 ... can dream of taking. Who wishes to be rigorously honest and tolerant? Who wants to confess his faults to another and make restitution for harms done? Who cares anything about a Higher Power, let alone meditation and prayer? Who wants to sacrifice time and energy in trying to carry 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." (12&12, p. 24)

David L

Step Six: Defects and Short Comings

A lot of Credibility Leads to Integrity

By Rick R.

Sometimes the wording used in The Big Book and in The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions mean something different to individuals often based on how they evolved with respect to Religion, Agnosticism, Atheism and other developmental histories. This may be confusing to many of us, especially Step Six in the 12X12 as it talks of God removing these defects of character the way God removed the obsession to drink. In simple terms I try to word the Step Six process in a way anyone can understand it and my goal is not to offend anyone by being over simplistic but just about all of our actions and behaviors stem from our thinking and if our thinking is of a fearful nature, we are bound to make bad decisions in an effort to defend ourselves. The defects we identify in the step four inventory, disclose in step five and address in step six, are biproducts of our fears and insecurities and are of a spiritual nature as in our inner self. The shortcomings we address in step seven are of a material nature (actions and behaviors) that result from those fears and insecurities. If, in the program, we discover a defect of character and address it properly the short coming diminishes and becomes irrelevant. A simpler way I try to describe this process is as follows: Suppose you purchased a new car and drove off the lot and as you reached the first stop sign you hit the brakes, the car slowed down but did not stop as it should and drifted out into the intersection. You then returned to the car lot and explained what happened, they checked it out and discovered that the wrong brakes were installed at the factory. They agreed to correct the mistake. This time when you drove away and approached the stop sign the car stopped as it was supposed to, and it also stopped at every other stop sign or red light. Once the defect was identified and corrected, the short coming went away. I look at defects as the unseen part of our makeup such as: thoughts, motives, fears, feelings, ego, conscience, and so on. I look at shortcomings as the results of those inner thoughts and feelings such as: gossip, lying, verbal abuse, cheating, theft, neglect, and so on. In step four we identified our defects of character (fear and Insecurity) and in step five we owned and exposed them. In Step Six and Seven we start to replace our selfish and shameful thoughts and motives with unselfish habits and deeds. There's no need to overcomplicate the process. As we begin to stay on the unselfish side of the behavioral ledger, we begin to establish a new track record and if all our motives are of an unselfish spirit, we start to establish some credibility, which, in time, leads to integrity. If individuals employ the dynamics, I described in Step Six and Seven, he/she will be a different person, in Spirit, when they reach the ninth step and it will make it much easier to make amends backed up by a mountain of integrity. The steps of the program are numbered in order, for a reason and if a person is struggling with one of these steps it might be wise to backup and be sure that they didn't skimp on an earlier step or leave out something important. If an Alcoholic has a desire to live a happy and useful life, the steps of the program are a pathway to achieve that goal provided they stick with the plan. Not everything will go our way in the beginning but, if we persist, in time things will go exceptionally well. In the words of Preacher Roe: "Sometimes you eat the Bear, Sometimes the Bear eats you". I say, "Perseverance will always eat the Bear"!

A Gratitude Prayer

Hurray hurray...
Thank You for this day.
And the knowledge to live
As I ought to...
To try to observe.
To serve and deserve
This remarkable gift
I've been brought to.

Jim C.

You Dude

Serenity, courage, wisdom...
What a delightful day,
I'll take it, there, my friends and partners,
Living...what a wonderful way.

What a wonderful selection
For approaching life fully your way.
You'll know what is what;
You're in control, pop;
You can smile a just walk away.

Jim C.

The A.A. Program — Spiritual But Never 'Religious'

One of the most common misconceptions about Alcoholics Anonymous is that it is a religious organization. New members especially, confronted with A.A.'s emphasis on recovery from alcoholism by spiritual means, often translate "spiritual" as "religious" and shy away from meetings, avoiding what they perceive as a new and frightening set of beliefs. By the time they walk into their first meeting, many alcoholics have lost what faith they might once have possessed; others have tried religion to stop drinking and failed; still others simply want nothing to do with it. Yet with rare exceptions, once A.A. members achieve any length of sobriety, they have found a source of strength outside themselves — a Higher Power, by whatever name — and the stumbling block has disappeared.

Dr. Bob's Last Drink...Start Of A.A., June 10th?.....or June 17th?

As *Founders Day* approaches, June 10, we'll take a look back at the story of 'Dr. Bob's Last Drink' with a revisionist eye at the days and dates. The days, *Sunday*, June 9, 1935– Dr. Bob travels from Akron to Atlantic City to attend the AMA Convention – *Monday, June 10, 1935* – first day of the AMA Convention etc. are correct. These days, no doubt were cemented into the story line with the publication of *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*. However, Monday in the year 1935 was the 10th of the month, usually the date assigned to the day Dr. Bob took his last drink.

In the re-telling of the story by Mitchell K., is a review of the 1935 AMA Convention published by the AMA on June 22, 1935. In the second paragraph it is noted that the convention started on Monday, June 10th. Dr. Bob didn't take his last drink until about 7 days after the convention started. So, the days and the dates don't match. Does it matter? Not really. Will A.A. change the date of *Founders Day* from June 10th? Probably not.

What is important is the story. That Bill realized that there was nothing he could do to stop Dr. Bob from attending the convention. He had to 'let go and let God.' Maybe Dr. Bob needed one more frenzied run with alcohol. We'll never know. What we do know is that in June of 1935 Dr. Bob and Bill began to forge the program and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous that has grown and flourished for 84 years. This is why we celebrate *Founders Day*.

Dr. Bob's Last Drink

Bill W. had met a kindred spirit in Dr. Bob. Both men were born in Vermont, both were intelligent and both were alcoholics. They somehow knew that fateful evening in Henrietta Seiberling's Gatehouse home both of them were going to be okay.

After a few weeks of working with each other and attempting to deliver the message of recovery to other alcoholics, Bill and Dr. Bob did not appear to be discouraged. Despite their not being able to bring another rummy into the fold - they were staying sober. Quite a feat for Dr. Bob who had been attending Oxford Group meetings for a few years, even prior to getting together with Bill.

Dr. Bob was feeling so secure that he decided to attend a convention of the American Medical Association. He had not missed a convention in 20 years and did not plan on missing this one. Bob's wife, Anne was set against him attending the convention. She remembered previous ones where he had gotten drunk.

Dr. Bob assured her that he would not drink. He said that alcoholics, even those who had stopped drinking, would have to begin to learn how to live in the real world. She finally agreed and off he went.

Dr. Bob kept his promise to Anne. That is, until he boarded the train to Atlantic City. Once on the train Dr. Bob began to drink in earnest. He drank all the way to Atlantic City, purchased more bottles prior to checking in to the hotel. That was on a Sunday evening.

Dr. Bob stayed sober on Monday until after dinner. He then resumed his drinking. Upon awakening Tuesday morning his drinking continued until noon. He then realized that he was about to disgrace himself by showing up at the convention drunk.

Continued on page 6a

Continued from page 6

24-Hour Blackout

The operation was a success and Dr. Bob did not return home right after it. Both Bill and Anne were concerned to say the least. They later found out, after Dr. Bob had returned, that he was out making amends. Not drunk as they may have surmised, but happy and sober. That date according to the AA literature was June 10, 1935.

June 10, 1935 has been considered as AA's Founding Date for many years. After all, it was the date Dr. Bob had his last drink - or was it? Recently discovered evidence appears to differ with the "official" literature.

The "Official" Date

The Archives of the American Medical Association reportedly show that their convention in Atlantic City, in the year 1935 did not start until June 10th. How could Dr. Bob have gone to the convention, by train - check into a hotel - attend the convention on Monday - check out on Tuesday - be in a blackout for 24 hours - go through a three -day detoxification - perform surgery on the day of his last drink - June 10, 1935?

Five days had passed since Dr. Bob left for the convention and returned to Akron. There was the three-day detoxification process and then there was the day of the surgery. Approximately nine days had passed from when he left and the date of his last drink.

If the records of the American Medical Association are in error as to the date of their convention it is possible that June 10, 1935 was the date of Dr. Bob's last drink. If the records are in error, the 1935 convention would have been the only one in the history of the American Medical Association that was listed with the wrong date.

It now appears that the date of Dr. Bob's last drink was probably on, or about, June 17, 1935. Maybe AA should keep the June 10th date as a symbolic Founding Date rather than claim it as the actual one? Maybe the date should be changed to reflect historical accuracy?

Either way, Dr. Bob never drank again until his death, November 16, 1950. Dr. Bob sponsored more than 5,000 AA members (which if you do the math equals more than one per day in the 15+ years that he was sober!) and left the legacy of his life as an example. Dr. Bob told those he sponsored that there were three things one had to do to keep sober: TRUST GOD, CLEAN HOUSE, HELP OTHERS.

More will be revealed...

Mitchell K.

We pocket our pride and go to it, illuminating every twist of character, every dark cranny of the past.

Research indicates that there are approximately 21 defects of character. 7 of them are also known as deadly sins.

Resentment, Anger
 Fear, Cowardice
 Self Pity
 Self justification
 Hate
 Self importance, Egotism
 Self condemnation, Guilt
 Dishonesty
 False pride, Phoniness, Denial
 Envy
 Impatience
 Jealousy, Lust
 Procrastination, Sloth
 Laziness
 Insecurity
 Negative thinking
 Immoral thinking
 Greed
 Perfectionism, Intolerance
 Gluttony
 Criticizing, Loose Talk, Gossip

The Big Book says that Fear is a major cause of our problems. Until all our character defects are uncovered and exposed in Steps 4 and 5, and cast out in Steps 6 and 7, the old thought system still has a basis for return. In Step 6 we again demonstrate courage, willingness, trust in our Higher Power, and a few more assets that we have begun to develop, integrity, determination, consistency, and diligence as we repeatedly apply Step 6 to all our character defects - without any reservation of mind or body whatsoever.

THE GATE HOUSE

When Dr. Bob meets Bill W. at the Seiberling Estate Gatehouse, Bob is still drinking. Bill tells Bob of his experiences with alcohol; of the hopes, promises, and failures; the obsession, compulsion, physical allergy; of Ebby's visit and his simple message, "show me your faith and by my works I will show you mine."

Dr. Bob understood with sudden clarity—the difference with the Oxford Group. "The spiritual approach was as useless as any other if you soaked it up like a sponge and kept it to yourself." The purpose of life was not to "get," it was to "give."

Bill presented Dr. Bob with four aspects of one core idea:

Utter Hopelessness
 Totally Deflated
 Requiring Conversion
 Needing Others.

The Twelve Steps in Plain English

1. Alcohol will kill me.
2. There's a power that wants me to live.
3. Do I want to live? or die?
4. Write about how I got to where I am.
5. Tell another person all about me.
6. Want to change.
7. Ask a power greater than me to help change.
8. Write down who I hurt.
9. Fix what I can without hurting anyone else.
10. Accept that I'm human and will screw up.
11. Ask a power greater than me to show me how to live.



"Remember Bill, let's not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple."

(from "Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers", page 343)

FINANCES**MAY YTD****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	3,735	22,292
Group Contributions	1,812	11,749
AA Birthdays		400
Faithful Five		70
Anonymous		

Total Income

5,548 34,511

Expenses

Bank/Credit Card Fees	84	453
Travel/Licenses/Permits		218
Office Supplies	89	653
License/Permits		
Payroll Net	1,711	8,555
Payroll Tax		2,227
Postage		30
Printing	174	543
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	2,951	14,728
Insurance		
Rent	500	2,500
Sales Tax	304	1,476
Telephone/www	209	1,188
Utilities	100	500
Contributions		173
Computer Software		372
Computer Equip./Maintain		497
Travel		

Total Expenses

6,136 34,460

Net Ordinary Income

-588 50

Other Income

Other Expenses

NET OTHER INCOME**NET INCOME**

-588 50

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".

Group/Meeting	MAY	YTD
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482	0	71
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	553	1,125
Bonita Men, 654428	0	200
Bonita Saturday Night	0	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493	0	799
Bonita Springs Women's 169127	402	652
Bonita Springs Step, 134588	0	215
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	438	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	22	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	116	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	25	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

Group/Meeting	MAY	YTD
One Day At A Time	0	0
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	22	154
Saturday Night Live	50	50
Spiritual Solutions, 720796	0	0
Start Where You Are	0	0
Step By Step	0	0
Still Living Sober, 624730	0	0
Students of the Steps, 635600	0	0
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079	196	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	0	111
Third Tradition, 143298	0	60
Three Legacies, 679400	0	0
Thursday Women	0	0
Unity Monday Noon Step	0	265
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.



ITS SPRING!

Amended Angels by Patricia Ann R

When I came to this program, with my soul torn apart,
 You taught me to pray and make a new start.
 I go to AA meetings, it's kind of like school
 with people like me, who teach me the tools.
 Twelve Steps to heaven, could this be AA?
 They gave me a Big Book, and told me to pray.
 You don't have to feel hopeless no more.
 Just work these Twelve Steps and I will open the door.
 In there will be Twelve Promises for you.
 They teach you, "to thine own self be true."
 They said, "take what you need, and leave the rest."
 So that's what I did, I gave it my best.
 They said, "pick your sponsor, to teach you the Steps.
 Take your time on each one, so you have no regrets."
 If you have any questions, ask your sponsor or friend.
 They will be glad to help you, so you'll get to the end.
 Pick someone who is caring and will give you some
 hope.
 The Twelve Steps will teach you, how to live and cope.
 To get rid of the pain that you feel inside,
 You must give it away, with "Love and not Pride."
 With even a hand shake or a hug,
 you will find emptiness is now filled with love.
 So give to each other, with unselfishness and love.
 The honesty and purity, God gives you above.
 Remember to pray for each other every day,
 and be there for the next drunk God sends your way.
 Some have passed on now, their spirit remains.
 They taught me to love and get rid of my pain.
 So my blessings are many, I will count them for you.
 My children, grandchildren and friends in these rooms.
 "They are my Angels"

Why We Drank

We drank for joy and became miserable.
 We drank for sophistication and became obnoxious.
 We drank for friendship and became enemies.
 We drank to help us sleep and awakened exhausted.
 We drank to gain strength and it made us weaker.
 We drank for exhilaration and ended up depressed.
 We drank for "medical reasons" and acquired health problems.
 We drank to help us calm down and ended up with the shakes.
 We drank to get more confidence and became afraid.
 We drank to make conversation flow more easily and the words came out slurred and incoherent.
 We drank to diminish our problems and saw them multiply.
 We drank to feel heavenly and ended up feeling like hell...

***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.



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

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

THERESA R. MONTHLY, JEFFREY S. MONTHLY,

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

District 20

(Collier County, the portion of Monroe County bordered by Collier and Miami-Dade Counties, and the portion of Hendry County below the northernmost boundary of Collier County.)

District 20 Officers:

Chairman:
Robert C., 784-8514
chair@district20aa.org
Alt. Chair:
Peter C.
altchair@district20aa.org
Treasurer:
Mary B., 777-8066
treasurer@district20aa.org
Registrar:
Jill M., 309-3879
registrar@district20aa.org
Secretary:
Tiffany M. 227-8669
secretary@district20aa.org

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

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

Corrections

Tom M., 200-8791
corrections@district20aa.org
Business meeting the first
Tuesday of each month at
5:30 p.m., 24 Hour Club

Public Information/CPC

Dawn L., 253-5481
Business meeting the first
Wednesday of each month at
7pm, 24 Hour Club

Grapevine/Literature

Steve K., 430-9110
Business meeting the third
Tuesday of each month at
5:30p.m., 24 Hour Club

Archives

Laurel B., 451-0095
naplesboff@hotmail.com
Business meeting 3rd Saturday
@ 24 Hour Club at 11am

Current Practices

Jerry E., 776-6767
jeddleman@aol.com

District 20 Website

Eric H., 738-8871

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)

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altdelegate@areal5aa.org

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Office Hours:

Monday 9am to 4pm
Tuesday 9am to 4pm
Wednesday 9am to 4pm
Thursday 9am to 4pm
Friday 9am to 4pm
Saturday 9am to 4pm
Sunday CLOSED

Office Volunteers:

Judy W., Tona W.,
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

12th Annual A.A. Picnic
June 23, 2019
11AM-3PM

Vineyards Park
6231 Arbor Blvd W,
Naples, FL 34119
\$5 Per Person



Food
Music
Games



Fellowship

Burgers, Hot Dogs Coleslaw &
Potato Salad included in ticket price.

Please bring - Drinks, Chips, Desserts,
Additional Side Dishes & Ice - Coolers Permitted.

Limited Seating - Bring your lawn chairs.

Don't forget your hats and sunscreen.

Free Games Include: Horeshoes, Cornhole,
Volleyball, Basketball and More!

Play the A.A. Countdown
& Test your A.A. IQ
for a special Prize.

Speaker: TBD



50/50
Raffle

Sponsored by: The Comes of Age Group