

THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup
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Naples, Florida 34109



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

March, 2019

2020 Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention “Love and Tolerance is Our Code”

Preliminary Information:

Date: July 2-5, 2020

Location: Cobo Center, the Ford Field stadium, and other locations,
Detroit, MI

Registration: Opens September 9, 2019. Registration and Housing forms available in August. On Line Links available in September, 2019 at www.aa.org. A video/flyer invitation available on line at www.aa.org (in different time-lengths (1 minute 45 seconds, 45 seconds and 20 seconds)).

Following are Frequently Asked Questions:

Q When will registration forms be available?

A Registration forms will be mailed in August 2019 to all G.S.R.s, central offices, intergroups and international G.S.O.s. Online registration will be available September 9, 2019.

Q Will I be able to register online?

A Yes. There will be links to registration on G.S.O.'s A.A. website, www.aa.org.

Q What about on-site registration?

A On-site registration will be set up at the Cobo Center and will open on Wednesday morning, July 1, 2020.

Q Must everyone register? I thought I didn't have to pay to go to an A.A. event.

A Yes. Everyone must register. Attendance at this special celebration is voluntary, and, as responsible A.A. members, “we pay our own way.” The International Convention is paid for by those A.A.s who participate in it.

Q How much will registration cost?

A Advanced registration for the convention between September 9, 2019 and April 14, 2020 will be \$115.00 (USD) per attendee. Registration after April 15, 2020 will be \$140.00 (USD) per attendee.

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STEP THREE: “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him”

TRADITION THREE: “The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking”

TRADITION THREE (Long Form) : “Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation”

CONCEPT THREE: “The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs”

3rd Step Prayer: God, I offer myself to Thee - to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

**This is a Checklist for Tradition Three
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1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

WANTED**AA MEMBERS...****WITH GOOD, STRONG VOICES AS WELL AS SINGERS, TO PARTICIPATE IN AN AA PROJECT TO BENEFIT AA.****CALL OR EMAIL: JIM B. (239) 300-5891; mabopx3a@gmail.com****OR CENTRAL OFFICE: (239) 262-6535; naplesintergroup@yahoo.com**

History of the AA Preamble

In 1947, because of the growing interest in AA, the Grapevine editors decided to write a brief definition of the Fellowship. Thus, the AA Preamble was first published in the June 1947 issue. They used portions of the Foreword to the first edition of the Big Book.

The Grapevine had just begun to circulate among non-alcoholics, and the Preamble was intended primarily to describe for them what AA is and is not. It is still often used for public information purposes. As time passed, it began appearing in all Conference-approved publications, and many groups now use it to open meetings.

The original version was slightly different from what we know today. For example:

It stated that the only requirement for membership is an HONEST desire to stop drinking, and it contained only the very brief statement "AA has no dues or fees." At the 1958 General Service Conference, a delegate pointed out that the word "honest" does not appear in the Third Tradition, and suggested that it should be deleted from the Preamble. Many delegates felt that as AA had matured, it had become almost impossible to determine what constitutes an honest desire to stop drinking, and also that some who might be interested in the program could be confused by the phrase. The

mid-summer 1958 meeting of the General Service Board ratified the deletion, and since then the Preamble has read simply "a desire to stop drinking." The phrase "AA has no dues or fees" also was clarified to read as it presently does:

"There are no dues or fees for AA membership, we are self-supporting through our own contributions." The current version of the Preamble appears on the first page of every issue of the Grapevine.

Other AA Preambles

A few months after the Grapevine published the Preamble in June 1947, Ollie L., Dick F., and Searcy W. decided to beef it up for the drunks in Texas. "We worked on it, passed it around, and agreed on this version," says Searcy W. "It's now read by groups throughout the state." It works for Searcy. He's been sober 54 years.

Texas Preamble:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol, and are unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves. We feel each person's religious convictions, if any, are his own affair, and the simple purpose of the program of AA is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves, regardless of what our individual conception of that

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Q Can travel agents register groups or individuals?

A No. Payments from travel agencies to register groups or individuals will not be accepted.

Housing

Q When can I reserve my hotel room?

A Once you have registered for the Convention, you will be able to sign up for housing.

Q Where are the main hotels?

A Our Convention hotel block of over 10,000 rooms will be in five main areas, four in Michigan — downtown Detroit, Dearborn, Southfield and Romulus/Airport — and one just across the Canadian border, in Windsor, Ontario. Of those 10,000 rooms, only 3,000 are in downtown Detroit and within walking distance of the Cobo Center and the Ford Field Stadium.

Q Can members contact hotels directly?

A No. To make the process as fair as possible, all housing requests will be processed through the Convention Housing Bureau.

Q Can travel agents make room reservations?

A Room reservations can only be made in an individual's name. Rooms available through the Housing Bureau, at specially negotiated Convention rates, are not commissionable to travel agents.

Q Can we request a room in the same hotel with friends?

A Yes. You can reserve more than one room through the housing process as long as your friends have registered for the Convention. You will need to provide their name(s) and be prepared to pay additional deposits.

Q If 50 of us are coming together from the same area, can we be in the same hotel?

A We do make an effort to accommodate group housing requests. There is a separate procedure for this so we can ensure fairness while still trying to meet your needs. For information on this procedure, please contact the International Convention coordinator at G.S.O. at 2020IC@aa.org.

Transportation

Q Will local transportation be available?

A All members in housing blocked for this event will be provided with shuttle buses for a less-than-45minute ride to the Cobo Center and the Ford Field stadium. Some members will be within walking distance of the meeting venues.

Q What about special airline rates?

A As at other International Conventions, there will be special fares available. That information will be available with the August 2019 registration information mailing and on the International Convention Website.

Q Where do I obtain more information about the 2020 International Convention?

A More information will be available throughout 2019 and 2020 in Box 4-5-9 and on G.S.O.'s website, www.aa.org (you can use the QR code below). All necessary information will be included in the registration packet, which will be available August 2019. G.S.O.'s website will be updated as more information becomes available.

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Power may be.

In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must first apply ourselves with some diligence, but repetition confirms and strengthens this habit, then faith comes naturally.

We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious disease for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the result of an allergic reaction to alcohol, which makes it impossible for us to drink in moderation. This condition has never, by any treatment with which we are familiar, been permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence - a second meaning of AA.

There are no dues or fees. The only requirement is an honest desire to stop drinking. Each member is a person with an acknowledged alcoholic problem who has found the key to abstinence from day to day by adhering to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment he resumes drinking he loses all status as a member of AA. His reinstatement is automatic, however, when he again fulfills the sole requirement for membership – an honest desire to quit drinking. Not being reformers we offer our experience only to those who want it. AA is not interested in sobering up drunks who are seeking only temporary sobriety. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and in which we join in harmonious action.

Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path. Those who do not recover are those who will not or cannot lend themselves to this simple program-- usually men and women who are incapable of being honest with themselves. You may like this Program or you may not, but the fact remains that it works.. and we believe it is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun included in the AA fellowship. Some people may be shocked at our apparent worldliness and levity, but just underneath there is a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first. With each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us, or we perish.

We are gathered here because we are faced with the fact that we are powerless over alcohol and unable to do anything about it without the help of a Power greater than ourselves. We feel that each person's religious views, if any, are his own affair. The simple purpose of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is to show what may be done to enlist the aid of a Power greater than ourselves, regardless of what our conception of that Power may be.

In order to form a habit of depending upon and referring all we do to that Power, we must at first apply ourselves with some diligence. By often repeating these acts, they become habitual and the help rendered becomes natural to us.

We have all come to know that as alcoholics we are suffering from a serious illness for which medicine has no cure. Our condition may be the result of an allergy which makes us different from other people. It has familiar, permanently cured. The only relief we have to offer is absolute abstinence, the second meaning of A.A.

There are no dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Each member squares his debt by helping others to recover. An Alcoholics Anonymous is an alcoholic who through application and adherence to the A.A. program has forsworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverage in any form. The moment he takes so much as one drop of beer, wine, spirits or any other alcoholic beverage he automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. A.A. is not interested in sobering up drunks who are not sincere in their desire to remain sober for all time. Not being reformers, we offer our experience only to those who want it.

We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree and on which we can join in harmonious action.

Those who do not recover are people who will not or simply cannot give themselves to this simple program. Now you may like this program or you may not, but the fact remains, it works. It is our only chance to recover.

There is a vast amount of fun in the A.A. fellowship. Some people might be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity but just underneath there lies a deadly earnestness and a full realization that we must put first things first and with each of us the first thing is our alcoholic problem. To drink is to die. Faith must work twenty-four hours a day in and through us or we perish.

In order to set our tone for this meeting I ask that we bow our heads in a few moments of silent prayer and meditation. I wish to remind you that whatever is said at this meeting expresses our own individual opinion as of today and as of up to this moment. We do not speak for A.A. as a whole and you are free to agree or disagree as you see fit, in fact, it is suggested that you pay no attention to anything which might not be reconciled with what is in the A.A. Big Book. If you don't have a Big Book, it's time you bought you one. Read loan it, scatter it, and then learn from it what it means to be an A.A.

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The Wilmington Preamble has long been surrounded by controversy and discussion of such has sparked many a debate almost from its inception in the early years of Alcoholics Anonymous. The history of our fellowship has mostly been passed from member to member over the expanse of many years; member whose very disease has a tendency to distort one's memory. Inaccuracies may prevail. The following is in no way an attempt to dispel those controversies, but an effort to establish an accurate history of the birth of the Wilmington Preamble and to keep its true history alive for the enlightenment of future generations. Documentable corrections are welcomed.

The Wilmington Preamble's birth ties in with one of Wilmington's earliest members, Shoes L. Shoes joined the Wilmington Group and got sober in May of 1944. The following month in June, Shoes was Chairman of the group and in charge of getting speakers for their meetings. There was at this time a sportswriter in town covering the horseraces at Delaware Park. His name was Mickey M. and Shoes asked him to speak at the group's meeting. Mickey replied that he wasn't much of a speaker but that he would write something appropriate. He reportedly went back to his room at the Hotel Dupont and wrote the Wilmington Preamble as we know it and it was read the following Friday night.

Being a sportswriter, Mickey M. covered events in other towns, and while in Baltimore covering the races at Pimlico gave the same preamble to the Baltimore Group which they also adopted as their own. Where it was actually read first is the subject of many debates but one fact remains clear, that this "Preamble" was widely accepted in Maryland and Delaware long before World Service sanctioned the shorter A.A. Preamble that is more universally accepted today.

The Wilmington AA Preamble:

We of Alcoholics Anonymous are a group of persons for whom alcohol has become a major problem. We have banded together in a sincere effort to help ourselves and other problem drinkers recover health and maintain sobriety.

Definitions of alcoholics are many and varied. For brevity we think of an alcoholic as one whose life has become unmanageable to any degree due to the use of alcohol.

We believe that the alcoholic is suffering from a disease for which no cure has yet been found. We profess no curative powers but have formulated a plan to arrest alcoholism.

From the vast experience of our many members we have learned that successful membership demands total abstinence. Attempts at controlled drinking by the alcoholic inevitably fail.

Membership requirements demand only a *sincere* desire on the part of the applicant to maintain total abstinence.

There are no dues or fees in A.A.; no salaried officers. Money necessary for operating expenses is secured by voluntary contributions. Alcoholics Anonymous does not perform miracles, believing that such powers rests only in God.

We adhere to no particular creed or religion. We do believe, however, that an appeal for help to one's own interpretation of a higher power, or God, is indispensable to a satisfactory adjustment to life's problems.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not a prohibition or temperance movement in any sense of the word. We have no criticism of the controlled drinker. We are concerned only with the alcoholic.

We attempt to follow a program of recovery which has for its chief objectives:

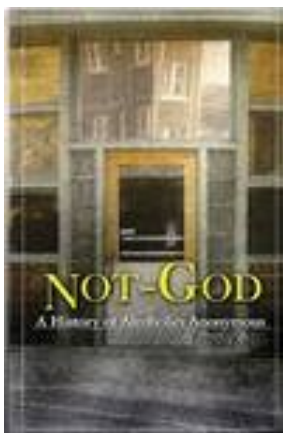
Sobriety for ourselves; help for other alcoholics who desire it; amends for past wrongs; humility; honesty; tolerance; and spiritual growth.

We welcome and appreciate the cooperation of the medical profession and the help of the clergy.



Sponsorship: We All Do It Differently

I don't really know if I am a good sponsor or not. I just copy what I've learned from the sponsors I've had over the years. But I do know that I have a 100% success rate. No matter what anyone I have sponsored has done, I've stayed sober. This includes men leaving A.A. and getting on with their lives; leaving A.A. and dying drunk, or as a result of an alcohol-related illness or accident; or leaving A.A. and winding up serving a life sentence for a violent third strike committed while sober. I've also been fired by a number of sponsees who somehow manage to stay sober without me. Sometimes it was a simple: "This isn't working." At other times it was a long and confusing explanation. And at times they just kind of "went away," and ignored my texts or phone calls. As a rule I stop trying to get in touch with people after three attempts. (A lesson I learned in Al-Anon: After three times it's nagging.) While I am happy to be a sponsor, and get a lot out of it, I'm not one of those A.A.s who goes out actively looking for newcomers to sponsor. If someone thinks I might have something to help him stay sober, he'll ask. One of the interesting things about sponsorship is that while it is mentioned in a number of the stories, the word itself does not appear in the first 164 pages of the "Big Book." We find a lot about the need for "working with others," but not the "S" word.



According to Not God, Ernest Kurtz's "unofficial" history of A.A., sponsorship grew out of the idea of and need for working with others, and started in the early Cleveland groups: "The core A.A. ideas... were the importance of 'identification' as the main, if not the sole route, to 'getting the program'; the deep sense that 'this simple program' could be 'gotten by anybody,' but that be 'anybody's' concerned were very different in accidental ways, and a profound awareness concerning sobriety that 'you keep it only by giving it away,' and especially impel-

ling conviction of the need for 'working with others.'"

Kurtz points out that the pamphlet on sponsorship describes it simply. "Essentially the process of sponsorship is this: An alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery program shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is attempting to attain or maintain sobriety through A.A." The pamphlet also makes several other important points. "Alcoholics Anonymous began with sponsorship. When Bill W., only a few months sober, was stricken with a powerful urge to drink, this thought came to him: "You need another alcoholic to talk to. You need another alcoholic just as much as he needs you!" He found Dr. Bob, who had been trying desperately and unsuccessfully to stop drinking, and out of their common need A.A. was born. The word "sponsor" was not used then; the Twelve Steps had not been written; but Bill carried the message to Dr. Bob, who in turn safeguarded his own sobriety by sponsoring countless other alcoholics. Through sharing, both of our cofounders discovered, their own sober lives could be enriched beyond measure." The pamphlet, available at Central Office and at most meetings, also answers several important questions about sponsorship, such as: Is there any one best way of sponsoring a newcomer? "The answer is no. All members are free to approach sponsorship as their own individual experiences and personalities may suggest. Some sponsors adopt a more or less brusque, "Take it or leave it" approach in dealing with newcomers. Others exhibit extreme patience and great personal interest in the people they sponsor. Still others are somewhat casual, content to let the new person take the initiative in asking questions or seeking help in special situations. Each approach is sometimes successful and sometimes fails. The sponsor has to decide which to try in a particular case. The experienced sponsor recognizes the importance of flexibility in working with newcomers, does not rely on a single approach, and may try a number of different approaches with the same person." The pamphlet also reminds us: "Most present members of Alcoholics Anonymous owe their sobriety to the fact that someone else took a special interest in them and was willing to share a great gift with them."

FINANCES**FEB****YTD****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	\$4,141	\$8,551
Group Contributions	1,080	5,007
AA Birthdays		
Faithful Five	25	40
Anonymous		

Total Income

5,246 13,598

Expenses

Bank/Credit Card Fees	79	172
Travel/Licenses/Permits		218
Office Supplies	40	187
License/Permits		
Payroll Net	1,618	3,236
Payroll Tax		1,113
Postage		30
Printing		
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	1,583	6,314
Insurance		
Rent	500	1,000
Sales Tax	287	541
Telephone/www	196	388
Utilities	100	200
Contributions		173
Computer Software	48	48
Computer Maintenance	233	233
Travel		

Total Expenses

4,943 14,126

Net Ordinary Income

302 -528

Other Income

Other Expenses

NET OTHER INCOME**NET INCOME**

302 -528

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

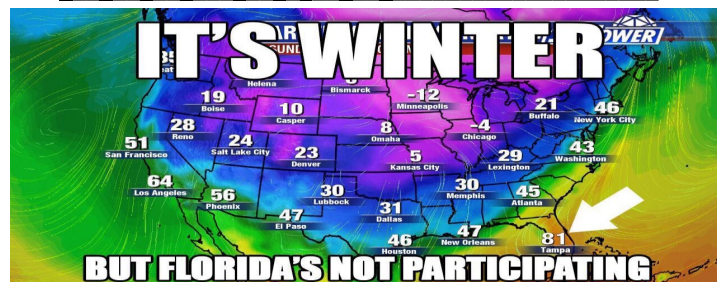
The six digit number next to the meeting name is their unique AA Registration Number assigned by the General Service Office in New York. This number signifies they are a "Registered Group"...Those meetings listed without a six digit number are **NOT registered with G.S.O.** and therefore not a "Group" (by AA definition), but is a "meeting".

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

Group/Meeting	JAN	YTD
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482	0	0
24 Hour Solution	0	69
Apreniendo A Vivre, 176467	0	0
Back To Basics	0	0
Beach Bums 641645	0	0
Big Book Comes Alive, 710427	60	60
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101	0	0
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630	0	0
Big Book Study, 662395	0	0
Bonita Awareness, 124788	0	0
Bonita Banyan, 176463	0	134
Bonita Beginners	0	0
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997	0	572
Bonita Men, 654428	200	200
Bonita Saturday Night	0	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493	0	360
Bonita Springs Women's 169127	0	250
Bonita Springs Step, 134588	0	0
Bonita Unity, 103316	175	175
Bring Your Own Big Book	0	0
Brown Bag, 163924	0	300
Burning Desire, 653891	0	0
Cake Meeting	50	50
Came to Believe, 615490	0	0
Candlelight, 606877	0	0
Comes Of Age	0	0
Common Solutions, 179613	0	200
Early Reflections, 653770	0	0
Early Riser, 161795	0	258
East Trail, 150873	0	0
Easy Does It, 156979	0	800
Free 2 Be, 6700930	0	110
Friday Big Book	0	0
Girlfriends, 678117	0	0
Golden Gate, 123819	0	0
Good Orderly Direction, 642330	0	0
Gratitude Hour, 134223	500	500
Happy Hour, 172923	0	0
Jaywalkers, 634271	0	0
Keep It Positive, 650541	0	0
Keep It Simple, 651598	0	0
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950	0	100
Lil'White House	0	0
Living Sober, 605904	0	0
Living Sober Isle of Capri	0	0
Men Of Naples, 634030	0	0
Morning Reflections, 660700	0	0
Naples Group, 103609	0	0
Naples Men's, 694322	0	200
Naples South, 130210	0	0
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	100	100
Nueva Vida	0	0

Group/Meeting	JAN	YTD
One Day At A Time	0	0
Our Common Welfare	0	0
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323	0	0
Pay It Forward, 704772	0	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715	0	0
Saturday Morning Girlfriends	132	132
Spiritual Solutions, 720796	0	0
Start Where You Are	0	0
Step By Step	0	0
Still Living Sober, 624730	0	0
Students of the Steps, 635600	0	0
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079	0	0
Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959	0	0
Sunset Serenity, 654981	0	0
Survivor's, 157268	0	0
SW 239 BID	0	0
Swamp Group, 672733	0	0
Tables of Naples, 147671	111	111
Third Tradition, 143298	0	0
Three Legacies, 679400	0	0
Thursday Women	0	0
Unity Monday Noon Step	46	185
Unity Step	0	0
Veranda	80	80
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923	0	0
Wanderers, Ave Maria	0	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011	0	36
Wednesday Step St. Johns	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.



Second Thoughts... ON THE 3RD STEP...

Now the 3rd step, which reads: "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him," might be summed up as, "Thy will be done."

This is a continuous performance for us alcoholics, if we want some peace of mind. It says somewhere in the Bible, *Think not of what ye shall eat, what ye shall drink, or where withal ye shall be clothed; for God hath knowledge of your need for all these things, therefore enter ye first into the kingdom of God and all shall be added unto you.*

Convinced of this, we try to go about our business wanting nothing for ourselves, but hoping and believing that we may understand in some measure His will for us and have the power to carry that out.

Somehow or other the more we practice this way of thinking the easier life seems to become, and tensions decrease.

With most of us this ability to "let go and let God" does not come automatically but, rather, gradually as a result of turning our thoughts away from ourselves toward others and the various steps in the A.A. program.

Even though we have been in A.A. without a drink for four years we have times when doubts occur and indecision arises in connection with matters concerning ourselves, but thanks to A.A., we can turn to this 3rd step, say, "Thy will be done," proceed to the nearest thing at hand to do, and all is quiet within us again.

Chet W., Stony Creek, CT

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Did you know?

The Loners-Internationalists Meeting (LIM) is a confidential bimonthly bulletin sent to Loners, Homers, Internationalists, Port Contacts, and Loner Sponsors. The bulletin contains excerpts from LIM members' letters that are sent to the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

The first LIM bulletin, printed in 1949 as The Internationalists Round Robin, was a few pages of excerpts from letters received at G.S.O. and mailed to a small band of Internationalists determined to stay sober no matter how isolated they were.

By 1963, the bulletin consisted of five or six one-sided pages, mimeographed on blue paper. In 1976, an A.A. Loners meeting merged with the original Internationalists meeting. Ever since the March-April 1980 issue, LIM has been printed on the familiar yellow pages.

LIM began through the efforts of Captain Jack S., a sailor who found sobriety in A.A. and understood that to maintain sobriety he needed to reach out to other members through correspondence.

Initially, Captain Jack was looking for A.A. contacts in port cities when he wrote a letter to G.S.O. dated March 28, 1946. Captain Jack requested information on A.A. contacts because he was "... still at sea on oil tankers, on which I have served for ten years. I have few contacts ashore with A.A., and have to rely on the Book and the guy upstairs." A G.S.O. staff member provided Captain Jack with the names of A.A. contacts in port cities, and encouraged him to write to other seagoing members, which he did.

After the publication of a three-part article, "A 'Loner' at Sea," by Captain Jack in the October, November, and December 1948 issues of the A.A. Grapevine, plans began to take shape to start an Internationalists meeting-by-mail. Letters responding to that Grapevine article prompted another G.S.O. staff member to suggest to Captain Jack that he consider starting a "Round Robin Meeting" via letters. Captain Jack responded positively and suggested the name be "The Far East Internationalist Group." He said that name "... would leave it open to lone members stationed ashore in the Far East and also to men who sail these waters under flags of different nations."

Captain Jack died in December 1988 at age 91, a few months after celebrating his 42nd A.A. anniversary. He had remained active in the Fellowship, seeking newcomers in Portland, Maine – where he had retired – while continuing to answer the many letters that he received.

A.A.'s phenomenal worldwide growth is attributed in part to Captain Jack and hundreds of Internationalists like him who, sailing the seven seas, carried the message wherever they dropped anchor.

Reprinted from Service Materials from the General Service 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	38	Bonita Unity
Rad W.	08/20/85	33	Gratitude Hour
Jackie T. F.	04/25/84	33	Morning Reflection
Dennis F.	07/15/84	27	Unity Step
Richard K.	11/25/90	27	Miami
Peter F.	03/01/95	24	Easy Does It
Bill S.	01/11/02	17	Brown Bag
Mary B.	07/22/02	16	Naples Group
Karen B.	02/11/09	7	Brown Bag
Heather W.	03/22/00	17	Naples Group
Judy W.	03/21/86	31	Easy Does It
Laura T. F.	06/16/16	1	Morning reflection
Steve K.	07/29/92	26	Primary Purpose
Steve L.	08/28/93	25	Early Reflection
Dale P.	05/29/98	20	

History of the Birthday Plan...

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



become a Faithful Fiver

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

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

What are Faithful Fivers?

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

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

*Page 9, Self-Support Pamphlet

FAITHFUL FIVERS

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 second
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

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

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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