



October, 2019

A.A.'s 85th Anniversary International Convention

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Sobering Centers Offer Nontraditional Exposure to A.A.'s Program of Recovery

Around the country, a movement is taking place: Sobering centers are emerging in places like San Francisco, California and Little Rock, Arkansas, as viable short-term alternatives to incarceration for people who are acutely intoxicated in public places. Instead of landing in an emergency room or a jail cell, these individuals are being transported to these centers that offer a safe environment to recover from these drunken episodes. In addition, these individuals receive immediate exposure to recovery and other community resources such as Alcoholics Anonymous through psychiatric professionals in addition to peer counselors with firsthand experience of sobriety. "It's a different way to respond to the issue. Instead of turning to the criminal justice system, as professionals, we are responding to the issues in the community," says Nancy McCarthy, a corrections professional who has worked in the criminal justice system within the greater St. Louis area for the past three-plus decades in addition to working with Florida State University on new models for individuals coming in and out of prisons. Nancy is also a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee of the Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Board. Nancy highlights a recent article titled "Public Intoxication: Sobering Centers as an Alternative to Incarceration, Houston, 2010-2017," in the American Journal of Public Health, in which the authors conclude the following: "misuse of substances has a significant impact

on public health, directly contributing to crime, health issues, and lost productivity." Starting in 2000, several cities in California, Texas and elsewhere established "sobering centers" as a form of public-health intervention. Today, these centers also allow individuals to walk in off the street, often impaired by alcohol or other substances. In addition to providing a safe place for intoxicated homeless people, these centers employ psychiatric professionals to manage these cases while offering access to peer support and other opportunities for recovery, such as admission into a treatment facility.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES RECORDED

The net effect of these centers on their cities and communities is considerable. Since these facilities have opened, the cities have experienced a number of positive outcomes: a decreased use of ambulance transports, a reduction in inappropriate visits to the emergency room, a decrease in alcohol or substance-related arrests, and a reduced amount of police time and effort expended on the arrests of highly intoxicated individuals. "As corrections professionals, we need to ask what is the best use of our jails. The criminal justice system needs to look at how they are addressing behavioral health issues," comments McCarthy. Often these sobering-center stays are short term, averaging between twelve and sixteen hours. "These centers are less treatment-focused but more supportive as well as a diversion from the criminal justice system." For example, instead of going through the traditional channels of the criminal justice system, the person will remain at the facility, which provides a healthy environment in addition to information about further treatment. In addition, individuals often receive A.A. liter-

ature in such environments as well as gaining exposure to nearby A.A. meetings. Local A.A. members in Florida have noticed an increase of these centers in their communities and see it as a great way to carry the A.A. message and plant a seed of hope. In sobering centers, it is up to the individuals to take an interest in A.A. and decide for themselves if they are alcoholics. They are not required to sit at an A.A. meeting, nor are they transported out to A.A. meetings. The idea is that local A.A. members come in, introduce the A.A. program and make a connection so that those individuals leaving the sobering center might consider attending A.A. meetings in their communities.

'MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE'

On the streets of San Francisco, California, Street Outreach Services (SOS) vans offer mobile medical services to homeless individuals. As a part of these services, the professionals riding in the van provide information and other resources about substance abuse and mental illness. Further south, in San Diego, the Serial Inebriate Program (SIP) was established in 2000 and also provides similar services for chronic homeless individuals suffering with problems related to alcoholism and substance abuse. This sobering center also hosts two A.A. meetings a week at its facility located in the Midway District of San Diego. In Houston, there is the Houston Recovery Center, which was established in April 2013, and about half of the cli-

Continued on Page 4

STEP TEN: “Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.”

TRADITION TEN: “Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”

TRADITION TEN (Long Form): “No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever. “

CONCEPT TEN: : “Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined. “

10Th Step Prayer: I pray I may continue to grow in understanding and effectiveness; to take daily spot check inventories of myself; to correct mistakes when I make them; to take responsibility for my actions; to be ever aware of my negative and self-defeating attitudes and behaviors; to keep my willfulness in check; to always remember I need Your help; to keep love & tolerance of others as my code; an to continue in daily prayer how I can best serve You, my Higher Power.

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

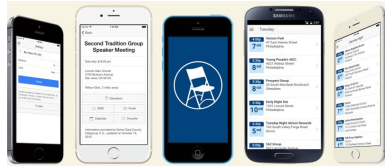
This is a Checklist for Tradition TEN. Reprinted with permission from Service Material from the General Service Office:

1. Do I ever give the impression that there really is an “AA opinion” on Antabuse? Tranquilizers? Doctors? Psychiatrists? Churches? Hospitals? Jails? Alcohol? The federal or state government? Legalizing marijuana? Vitamins? Al-Anon? Alateen?
2. Can I honestly share my own personal experience concerning any of those without giving the impression I am stating the “AA opinion”?
3. What in AA history gave rise to our Tenth Tradition?
4. Have I had a similar experience in my own AA life?
5. What would AA be without this Tradition? Where would I be?
6. Do I breach this or any of its supporting Traditions in subtle, perhaps unconscious, ways?
7. How can I manifest the spirit of this Tradition in my personal life outside AA? Inside AA?



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 is available at the Naples AA office.. All necessary information is included in the registration packet. This packet will lists numbers to call for answers to specific questions about housing, the program, etc. This information has been mailed to A.A. groups, offices and contacts around the world and posted on the website.



We’re happy to announce that Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc., is releasing Meeting Guide 3.0.

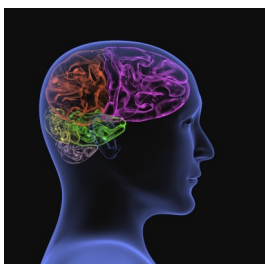
Meeting Guide is a mobile app focused on helping people find A.A. meetings and resources near them. The app has been updated to include some new features

we’re pleased to announce:

- Search -- Users will now be able to search for meetings by name or location
- Daily Reflections -- a selection of reflections by and for A.A. members
- More accurate locations for access to local contact information
- Improved user interface -- with a new menu bar and Contact feature.

Meeting Guide is available for iOS and Android smartphones. You can download it for free on the App Store or on Google Play.

Sobriety is a state of mind, which has as its prime pre-requisite total abstinence from alcohol, but has as its prime ingredients honesty, gratitude and humility. This state of mind is spiritual.

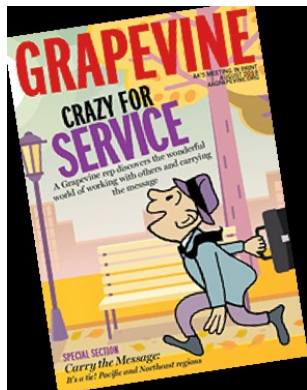
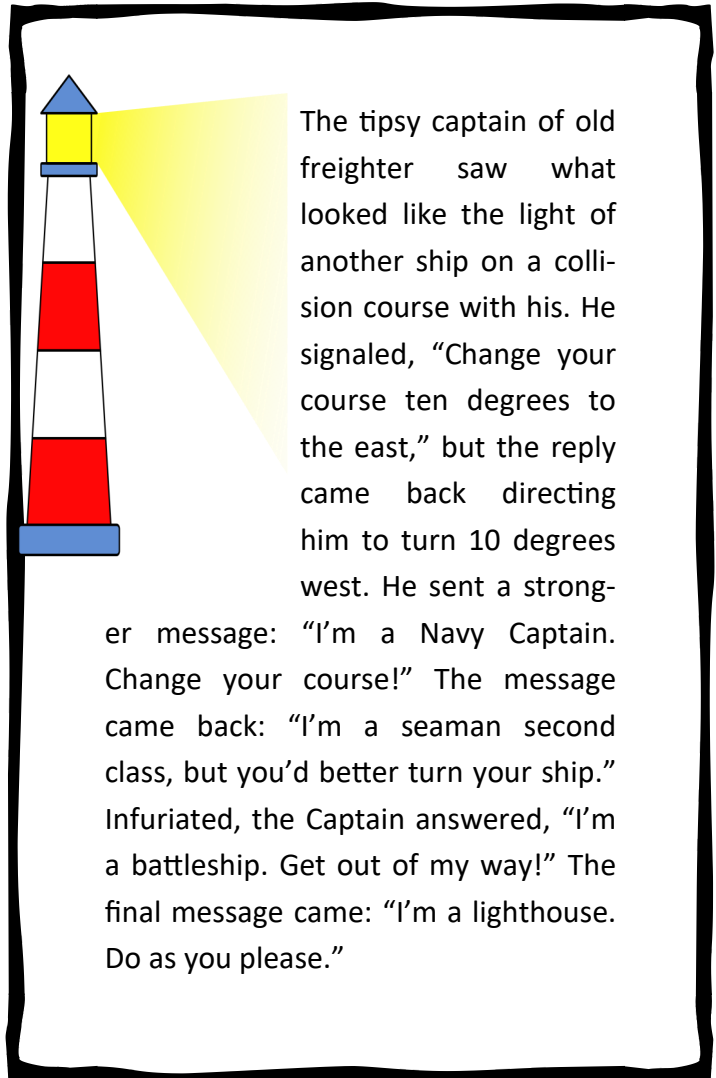


A "shortcoming" is like a flat tire.
A "character defect" is like driving on it.

Continued from Page 1, *Sobering*

ents accept referrals to other recovery resources, request housing assistance, or enroll in a treatment program upon discharge. "Corrections professionals are trying to meet people where they are," concludes McCarthy. For many individuals, these centers provide their first exposure to recovery as well as potential options for treatment. From a public health perspective, the sobering centers address the needs of the community. Even though public intoxication qualifies as a misdemeanor offense, the costs and consequences absorbed by the criminal justice system and the public health services are high. With these new centers, the solution to public intoxication is being redefined, and in the process, at-risk individuals are learning that there is a different way to live. Local A.A. members across the U.S. and Canada are available to carry the message of the A.A. program of recovery to alcoholics in their communities. A.A. volunteer committees such as the Cooperation with the Professional Community (C.P.C.) Committee work to find simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating, in order to establish good communication between A.A. members and professionals.

Source: *About AA*, A NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS, (G.S.O.) SUMMER 2019



Submit Your Story for Upcoming Issues

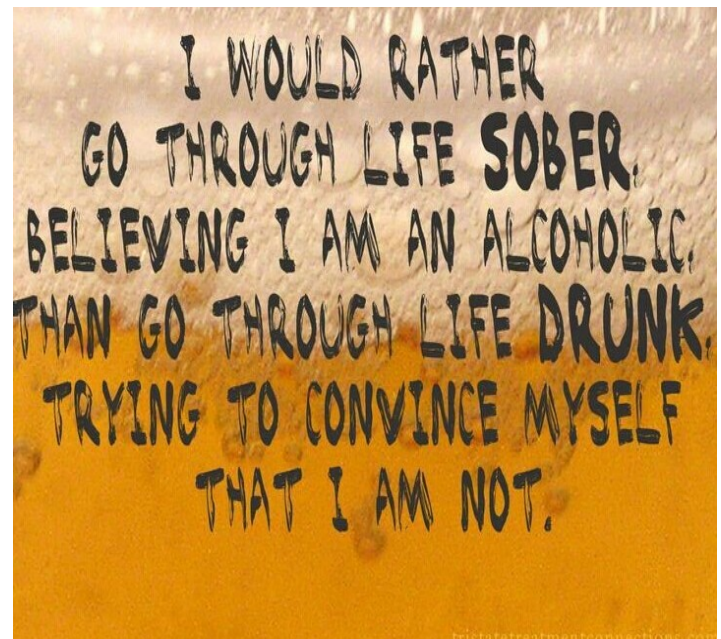
www.aagrapevine.org/contribute



GRAPEVINE ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Each year Grapevine holds a competition for member photos to be featured in our Wall Calendar. Send your most striking photographs by December 1st.

www.aagrapevine.org/photocontest



Some amplification of Big Book references...

"Very first case..." (Page xvii)

The very first case that Bill and Bob worked on was Eddie R. They were not successful with Eddie. He was from a prominent Youngstown, Ohio, family. He had lost his rented house and was about to lose his job. At Doctor Bob's funeral in 1950, Eddie R., was there with one year of sobriety.

The first "successful" case was Bill D., AA member number three. Bill D's sobriety date was June 26, 1935, 16 days after Dr. Bob's.

"American Statesman" (Page 50, 3rd paragraph)

The American Statesman was Alfred E. Smith, four-time governor of New York and the first Roman Catholic presidential nominee. In 1928, Smith won the democratic presidential nomination but was defeated by Herbert Hoover. Smith was a strong opponent of prohibition, attracting millions of voters concerned with the corruption brought about by the Eighteenth Amendment.

"Chief psychiatrist of a large public hospital" (Page 163, 3rd paragraph)

Dr. Russel E. Blaisdell, Rockland State Hospital near Orangeburg, New York. He attended the Rockefeller Dinner on February 8, 1940.

Rockland State Hospital near Mosey, NY became the first mental hospital to have an AA Group (started by Bob V). Dr. Russell E. Blaisdale, Superintendent of the hospital, allowed busloads of patients to attend meetings in New York and New Jersey.

Outside issue?

A few nights ago I was at a very lively local AA meeting. Its format includes four 15-minute speakers, and I've found it to be a refreshing departure from the 40-minute circuit-speaker pitch.

I couldn't help noticing when the first speaker mentioned, while describing an incident from his past, that he had been "drinking and doing outside issues." Then the second speaker did the same thing, and, not surprisingly, so did the third. It occurred to me that these relatively new members—all from the same home group—had been coached, probably by old-timers whose intent was to preserve AA's singleness of purpose.

I understand fully the concern that too much drug talk may put off a newcomer looking for a solution to his or her alcohol problem. However, what is a newcomer to make of "I was doing outside issues"? It has no meaning at all, and therefore should be equally off-putting. Furthermore, "doing outside issues" is code, chiefly for drug consumption, and talking in code is either an evasion or group speak, neither of which lends itself to a program of attraction.

Second, I detect a whiff of hypocrisy. Our Tenth Tradition states: "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues." Its intent was to make it clear that AA does not involve itself with politics, religion or social issues in general. On the other hand, most groups that I know of define sobriety—at least regarding birthday celebrations—in terms of misuse of "mind-altering substances" or some equivalent. In other words, drugs are an outside issue, *except in how we define our sobriety*.

Finally, how can it be fair or healthy to circumscribe what someone can share—and how they share it—when it comes to an issue that has affected them so profoundly? For the purposes of my membership in Alcoholics Anonymous, my drug problem is part of the unmanageability of my life, hence fair game for discussion—especially if I'm relating my alcoholic history. And I know this to be true: If I steal from my employer, I'm moving toward a drink. If I cheat on my wife, I'm moving dangerously closer. But if I inhale a banned substance through a straw, I'm going to run screaming for a bottle of whiskey.

What? That's an outside issue?

Even if the Truth hurts

At his daughter's school one day, a sober dad learns a valuable lesson about telling lies

Years ago, when I was just a few months into my newfound sobriety, I was confronted with a situation that most parents have experienced. On this occasion, my eldest daughter had been caught up in the worst kind of trouble that a 9-year-old girl can engage in—lying.

Naturally, as a concerned father I was furious to hear that my precious daughter had been lying to me and her mother about her school work. It wasn't until

*...the truth
may hurt for
a short time
but a lie hurts
all the time...*

I got a letter from her teacher and found missing assignments stashed in her backpack that I knew for sure that she had been dishonest with us for quite some time, even when we asked her if her studies were done.

I was devastated. My innocent, loving, caring daughter with whom I share a special day (my sobriety day is her birthday) had lied.

My wife and I were very upset and we wondered what else she might have been lying about. We wondered if this was only the tip of the iceberg. I wondered how this would affect my relationship with my daughter. These all were things I should have talked to my sponsor about, had I enough sense to call him. But I felt certain that I could handle it without his help.

So without consulting anyone, neither my wife nor my sponsor, I took it upon myself to "take care of it." And boy, did I ever.

While I drove my daughter to school the next day, I proceeded to criticize her actions and warned her of the severe consequences she would receive for lying. After an entire car ride of me spewing anger at her, I noticed that we were late to school by about 10 minutes because I couldn't stop myself from going on and on about how awful what she did was. My daughter, with her head down in shame, left my car humiliated. I thought, I won. She'll never do that again.

I watched her walk into the school and I saw through the vestibule glass that she had been stopped by the school secretary. My daughter was clearly getting an earful again, only this time from someone other than me.

Well, I wasn't having that. I parked my car, walked into the school, and there was my daughter getting told that she could not come late into the school without a note from her parents explaining her tardiness.

"No worries," I said. "We had a bit of car trouble." Without even thinking about what I was doing, I had lied in front of my daughter. She looked up at me with her big brown eyes and I sunk. In that moment, I wished the earth would just swallow me up. I left the school ashamed.

I went back home later and told my wife what had happened. She smiled and said perhaps I should apologize to my daughter. I also spoke with my sponsor, who laughed and pointed out that perhaps I should have asked for advice first, not after the damage was done. He added that the incident was something that I would never forget. I may have been right in being angry, he said. I may also have been right in talking to her, but I was horribly mistaken to shame her. It was the love of my wife and my daughter that led me back into the rooms of AA. My sponsor pointed out all the lies I spoke while I was drinking. He also pointed out to me that perhaps the reason I was so angered by Kylie's dishonesty was in part because it reminded me of myself.

I got off the phone and immediately apologized to my wife for the times I

was dishonest to her. Then I picked up my daughter from school and apologized to her for my lie. We promised each other never to lie again, even if the truth hurts. She told me that she had figured out something about life. The truth may hurt for a short time, but a lie hurts all the time.

I learned a great deal from my daughter that day and a great deal about myself. That was one of the best days of my sobriety.

Winchester, Virginia



SLOTH

Just a lazy, slow moving beast. A defect of mine, to say the least. Left to my own, I will delay til tomorrow what could be done today.

And so, it was from the beginning. The war with booze I was not winning. Many a time I said, "No more!" But then would end up on the floor.

Finally, I had had enough, and decided to try this A.A. stuff. The people there were very nice, and tried to give me sound advice.

"Get a book and read it through, and while at that get a sponsor too. You will find that when the Steps you've taken, to a spiritual life you will awaken."

While not the swiftest to do all this, I overcame sloth and did persist. The rewards were far more than I could ask, for in sobriety I now do bask.

And so, to those who would delay, in taking the Steps, we will only say, "Heed the words of Nike and Michael J... JUST DO IT."

Blaine H. , The San Diego
AA Coordinator, October, 2019

No Time to Rest on Our Laurels

Playing Checkers or Playing Chess?

By Rick R.

Let me preface this article by saying that I am not being critical of anyone for any reason concerning where a person is along the path of sobriety. My only motive for writing it is to give some prospective concerning the possibilities which lie ahead based on the thoroughness we apply to the steps as we put some distance between us and that last drink. I am one of the fortunate ones that showed up at the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous at the age of 28 and have never wanted a drink since that day. I was the youngest person in the room for my first couple of years as the drugs using population of the Sixties generation hadn't started showing up until the mid-seventies and they seemed to bottom out at a much earlier age than the common variety alcoholics who seldom came to us until they were in their forties. (midlife crisis) I was referred to as "The fortunate One." In my first two years, I was like everyone else when it came to the subject of thoroughness, and I was selective about what I would do with the program and about the things I would dismiss as being unnecessary since I had absolutely no desire to drink. I was slow and deliberate when it came to actually taking the steps and it was almost two years before I attempted to do the fourth step inventory and being in the Navy at the time, I was shipped out to an oil tanker in The Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club where I spent four months hauling fuel to the fleet. I had many nights at sea thinking and longing to be back with my home group and contemplating what I had planned to do and when I got home I re-opened my fourth step inventory with a new attitude about the steps and realized that my original attempt was a very shallow scam so I burned it and started over and this time, I got it right. That, I think was the turning point in my attitude about thoroughness. I addressed those so called "Tormenting Ghosts of Yesterday." Shared them with another trusted member of the program and it just lifted the weight off my shoulders and that, I believe, made the rest of the program much easier. I have attended a weekly step study meeting ever since and it helps

me to measure my growth as we cycle through the steps and traditions several times a year. There is a term on page 85 in the Big Book and, coincidentally, on Page 85 in the 12x12 that suggests "This is no time to rest on our laurels" and I take that very serious. Selfishness was the problem and today I live a life based on unselfish principles and motives. After many years of sobriety, I could very easily slack off and vegetate, but I would have no purpose in life and if I neglected responsibilities my self-worth would suffer. I also stopped being judgmental about the behaviors of others or I would be playing God myself. Scott Peck Defines Love as "Caring for and nurturing another person" and I can love everyone even if they can't return the gesture. It simply means wishing the best for them and meaning it. Happiness is a Biproduct of right living and living by unselfish principles is the key. These are just a few ideas but there are many ways to continue to have a purpose and if you don't, you may be stronger now and you may want to re-visit the fourth thru the ninth steps and get a better perception on how to become a more useful member of society and be fulfilled or, you may be satisfied just not drinking one day at a time. That's your choice. I overheard a sportscaster describing the different head coaches of professional football teams and he said, "Some are playing Checkers, and a few are playing Chess." Life takes on a new meaning and it is way too precious to waste when you've come this far.

Guns in Meetings???

Keeping it safe

Here in Albuquerque, several AA groups have been wrestling with the issue of allowing "open carry" guns and weapons in the meetings. Some members have called this an "outside issue," stating that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

In my (not so humble) opinion, fundamental safety in an AA meeting is not an outside issue.

Continued on page 10

FINANCES**SEP.****YTD****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	\$4,020	\$35,989
Group Contributions	935	21,654
AA Birthdays	78	589
Faithful Five	10	200
Anonymous		

Total Income

5,043 22,443

Expenses

Bank/Credit Card Fees	181	870
Travel/Licenses/Permits		398
Office Supplies	167	870
License/Permits		
Payroll Net	1,711	15,400
Payroll Tax		3,340
Postage		70
Printing		914
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	2,201	19,756
Insurance		567
Rent	500	4,500
Sales Tax	191	2,364
Telephone/www	197	1,988
Utilities	100	900
Contributions		173
Computer Software	13	874
Computer/Maintain		1,351

Total Expenses

5,262 54,695

Net Ordinary Income

-218 3,737

Other Income	1,100	2,018
Other Expenses	500	1,628

NET OTHER INCOME

362 390

NET INCOME

144 4,127

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

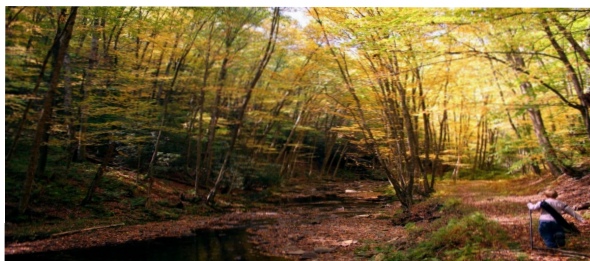
The six digit number next to the meeting name is their unique AA Registration Number assigned by the General Service Office in New York. This number signifies they are a "Registered Group"...Those meetings listed without a six digit number are **NOT registered with G.S.O.** and therefore not a "Group"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

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

Group/Meeting	SEPT	YTD
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482	0	110
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	0	60
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101	0	0
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630	0	54
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	2,180
Bonita Men, 654428	0	200
Bonita Saturday Night	0	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493	0	439
Bonita Springs Women's 169127	365	1,017
Bonita Springs Step, 134588	0	80
Bonita Unity	0	225
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	600
Early Reflections, 653770	0	0
Early Riser, 161795	0	2,040
East Trail, 150873	0	0
Easy Does It, 156979	0	2,550
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	0	150
Morning Reflections, 660700	20	98
Naples Group, 103609	300	650
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	SEPT	YTD
One Day At A Time	0	227
Our Common Welfare	0	77
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323	0	0
Pay It Forward, 704772	0	1,600
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715	0	675
Saturday Morning Girlfriends 678117	0	154
Saturday Night Live	0	50
Spiritual Solutions, 720796	250	250
Start Where You Are	0	0
Step By Step	0	2
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	0	211
The Solution Big Book Study Group 632503	0	0
Third Tradition, 143298	0	60
Three Legacies, 679400	0	0
Thursday New Women	0	400
Unity Monday Noon Step	0	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.



THE RECOVERY PARADOXES

We SURRENDER to WIN.
We FORGIVE to be FORGIVEN.
We GIVE it AWAY to KEEP it.
From WEAKNESS (adversity) comes STRENGTH.
We SUFFER to get WELL.
From DARKNESS comes LIGHT.
From DEPENDENCE comes INDEPENDENCE.
We DIE to LIVE.

365 ATTABOYS/GIRLS!

365 Mornings FREE of Self Loathing!

365 days of improved memory function!

365 days of improved brain function!

365 days of improved relationship skills!

365 days of awareness.

365 days of worthiness.

Freedom of **scheming and conniving** for 365 days.

No More **daily depths of despair** for 365 days.

Freedom from Mystery Bruises and Injuries for 365 days.

Freedom from soiled bedding, sleepwear or trash cans for 365 days.

No secret vomiting. No scary BM's. No High Blood Pressure meds for 365 days.

No Shaking, Flushing, Hand Sweating and Throat Closing for 365 days.

Freedom from checking caller id to see who I drunk answered for 365 consecutive days.

For 365 days I have NOT been fixated on the 10 am to 10 pm time frame.

No Gallatin St, Ed's, Spiro's, Stanley's, Village Pkg, Kats, Briarwood Mart, Met-ro, Old Canton, Madison Cellars, Mc Dades, Sam's Club, Old Towne, 55 Frontage Rd, Terry Rd & HWY18 for 365 days.

No acting like I cared for the liquor store mgr.'s life & family for 365 days.

Continued from page 7, GUNS

An AA meeting must be perceived by those attending—and by the community at large—as a safe place.

To me, the visual image of a gun on a hip does not help create that impression. A visible gun does what it is intended to do—it intimidates. In a place offering recovery and healing to people who come to AA with all sorts of trauma, anger, fear and emotional instability, the visual presence of loaded weapons on belts—coupled with statements of explosive anger by some people carrying those guns—could create a less than “safe” environment of recovery.

We in AA need to hold a place of safety and neutrality for people who arrive to get sober, just as it did for me when I arrived 31 years ago. Our primary purpose in AA is not to protect the Second Amendment. It is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

The folks insisting on their right to open carry might want to consider the impact of open carry on other members, many of them victims of gun violence and abuse. We should all have the common courtesy to respect the First Tradition, which states that, “our common welfare should come first.”

Apparently, this issue has surfaced in other states as well. In one case, a shooting did occur and the resultant news headlines did nothing to help AA as a whole. Incidents like these create negative impressions both inside and outside the AA community.

“It can’t happen here,” is a common aspect of denial. Opening the door to potential emotionally unstable people to carry weapons is a slippery slope. I know this from personal experience. Early in my sobriety in California, a guy at our meeting pulled a knife and directly threatened me, up close. I had done nothing to provoke him. Luckily, we were able to talk him down.

The incident speaks for itself. There is no reason to add a gun to that scenario.

If this is an issue for a group conscience, then so be it. Inadvertently creating a safe haven for the open carry of guns in a place where we are supposed to be creating a safe haven for the recovering alcoholic sure feels like a slippery slope to me.

The Birthday Club

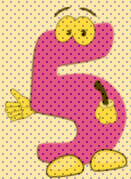
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics who still suffer. Envelopes available at Central Office or from your Intergroup Representative.



Ron P	49 years
Ron L.	40 years
Don M.	39 years
Dennis F.	35 years
Rad W.	34 years
Jackie T. F.	33 years
Judy W.	33 years
Steve K.	27 years
Peter F.	24 years
Bill S.	17 years
Mary B.	17 years
Laura T. F.	3 years



Faithful Fivers Needed



2019 Faithful Fiver Club

Ron L., Mary B., James B., Theresa R., Judy W., Kathryn Mc., Bill S.

We are members of A.A. who want the hand of A.A. always to be there in the Naples, Florida area.

It's easy to join!

Use a Check or Credit Card to contribute monthly, or one time.

Stop by the Central Office or Telephone the Central Office for a one time Credit Card charge.

\$5.00 per month or \$60.00 per year!

Your membership directly supports 12Step work in District 20 and Central Office Operations.

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.)

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Robert C., 784-8514
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Alt. Chair:
Peter C.
pete.curtner@yahoo.com
Treasurer:
Mary B., 777-8066
mbrown8869@gmail.com
Registrar:
Jill M., 309-3879
Secretary:
Dianna M., 248-6565
diannamusse@gmail.com

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

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

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Jerry E., 776-6767
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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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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., Chuck B.,
Mary B., Holly G.,
Mary Pat B., Charice
...and loyal Substitutes

After Hours Phone
Mary B., 777-8066