

# THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup  
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Naples, Florida 34109



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September, 2018

## September is Recovery Month

National Recovery Month (Recovery Month) is a national observance held every September to educate Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life.

Recovery Month celebrates recovery, just as we celebrate those who are managing hypertension, diabetes, asthma-observance reinforces the mental health is essential to works, treatment is effective, er.



the gains made by those in re-health improvements made by other health conditions such as ma, and heart disease. The positive message that behavior overall health, prevention and people can and do recover.

### AA 12 Steps

There are millions of Americans whose lives have been transformed through recovery. Since these successes often go unnoticed by the broader population, Recovery Month provides a vehicle for everyone to celebrate these accomplishments. Each September, tens of thousands of prevention, treatment, and recovery programs and facilities around the country celebrate Recovery Month. They speak about the gains made by those in recovery and share their success stories with their neighbors, friends, and colleagues. In doing so, everyone helps to increase awareness and furthers a greater understanding about the diseases of mental and substance use disorders.

Now in its 29th year, Recovery Month highlights the achievements of individuals who have reclaimed their lives in long-term recovery and honors the treatment and recovery service providers who make recovery possible. Recovery Month also promotes the message that recovery in all of its forms is possible and encourages citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective [prevention](#), [treatment](#), and [recovery](#) services for those in need.

Each year, Recovery Month selects a new focus and theme to spread the message and share the successes of treatment and recovery. The 2018 Recovery Month observance will focus on urban communities, health care providers, members of the media, and policymakers, highlighting the various entities that support recovery within our society.

The 2018 Recovery Month theme, "*Join the Voices for Recovery: Invest in Health, Home, Purpose, and Community*," explores how integrated care, a strong community, sense of purpose, and leadership contributes to effective treatments that sustain the recovery of persons with mental and substance use disorders. The observance will work to highlight inspiring stories to help people from all walks of life find the path to hope, health, and wellness.

**STEP NINE:** “Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

**TRADITION NINE:** “A.A., as such, ought never be organized but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

**TRADITION NINE: (Long Form)** Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

**CONCEPT NINE:** “Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

*9th Step Prayer: "God, with regard to this amend, give me the strength, courage and direction to do the right thing, no matter what the personal consequences may be. Help me not to shrink from anything. Help me not to delay if it can be avoided. Help me to be sensible, tactful, considerate and humble without being servile or scraping."*

## TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?
4. Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully—and profit thereby—when the time comes?
8. What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

## PLAN THE PLAN, NOT THE OUTCOME

In thinking about the Ninth Step, I reflected on this month's topic suggestion, "plan the plan, not the outcome." This reminds me to follow the advice have hurt others, and make direct full not to cause further harm. But do return, to forgive me, or even to be nice others are going to react to my Ninth Step, shouldn't worry about cleaning the other needs daily attention.

Since being introduced to the tools of with how to use those tools (although I focusing more energy on controlling I am caring less about what others actions and emotions influence my "controlling the controllable."

The Indians ace pitcher Corey Kluber repeat the motion of a successful pitch, ballgames. He feels that if he can make needs it next, the results will take care member how to use an AA tool when ry about what happens next. The um- can make contact, any number of focus on using that tool the right way.

The Ninth Step is an important tool in recovery. We know from the Big Book that Dr. Bob drove around Akron in an afternoon, early in sobriety, making amends to several different people. We also know that, as the Twelve Steps became widely used by millions, the wisdom developed to follow the steps in order, with the help of a sponsor, and not to be too hasty about taking this Step. We are asked to carefully lead up to the Ninth Step, including by taking a thorough personal inventory.

To plan the plan and not the outcome—to me, this means to follow the directions of the Big Book with the help of a sponsor, and take the steps in order. I realized early in sobriety that making a hasty apology in place of a careful amend might sound too much like "Drunk Tim," profusely apologizing for damaging the car, spending the paycheck, getting arrested, etc. Having said that, I did let a few people know right away that I was aware that I had hurt them, and hoped to do better. But I also worked on a few amends that took a while to put in action. And I still have a few to go.

I sometimes feel like sober living is my "living amends" to the Universe, but I remain aware that I have to plan a few more Ninth Step conversations. This month's topic was a good reminder that my least favorite step, the Ninth Step, is also the one that introduces the famous "Promises" in the Big Book. So I guess I have to do the work, let the results happen, and be grateful for the Promises coming true in my life.

"Now we go out to our fellows and repair the damage done in the past. We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves. If we haven't the will to do this, we ask until it comes. Remember it was agreed at the beginning *we would go to any lengths for victory over alcohol.*"

of the Big Book—find out exactly how I amends to them if possible, being care-not expect them to apologize to me in and listen to me. I cannot plan how oth-but I shouldn't worry about it just like I er side of the street when my own side

the Program and getting more familiar am no handyman in life or in AA), I am my own thoughts, actions, and reactions. think, do, or say. I try not to let their re- own. I sometimes refer to this as

recently said his goal is to be able to re- and he doesn't worry about winning his best pitch and then repeat it when he of themselves. Similarly, if I can re- the situation calls for it, I try not to wor- pire can call a strike or a ball, the batter things can happen. All I can ever do is to

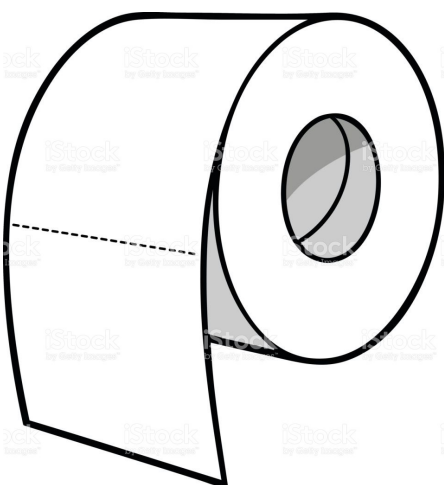
## COMING CLEAN

### A SNEAKY GAS STATION THIEF MAKES AMENDS FOR THE WAY HE USED TO ROLL

Years ago, I lived in an apartment next to a gas station. I was often broke and depressed, and I would go steal the toilet paper from its restroom. I did this many times during my short stay at that apartment. In my 18th year in AA, this theft came into my conscience, so I wrote it down on my inventory.

After a couple of meditations and conversations with other people, I called someone who gave me directions to house

the past of the tion was now later. I on the a friendly an-asked if was She ex-that Paul lived and that



the where owners gas sta-lived. It 22 years knocked door, and woman swered. I "Paul" there. plained no longer there, they had

divorced recently. I explained to her that I was there to try to make a past wrong right. She assured me that she was the co-owner of the station, so I knew I was in front of the right person. She let me know in a very kind way that she knew someone had been stealing from them back then, but had no idea who it was. She said that my just showing up to make it right was enough for her. But I told her that I thought I could do better.

I went to my car and took out 90 rolls of toilet paper I had bought. As I set the rolls down on the floor, I looked up at her. She was starting to weep. Then I did. Then, after a minute, she looked at me and said that she had only two rolls of toilet paper left, was on a fixed in-come and didn't have enough to buy any more.

I was amazed by the turn of events that morning, and so was my new friend. I gave her a big hug. We were in the presence of a Higher Power.

Nick B. ,London, OH, AA Grapevine, March, 2013

## A Very Strange Amends

Last night after making a direct amends with someone I had put off for four years, I got in a car accident at 55 mph. Thank goodness I was OK.

The police officer at the scene asked me if I would like to stay warm in his cop car. My first thought was, Hell no. How- ever I said, "Yes, thank you." He took me over to his car, moved some equipment from the back so I



could get in, and then said, "If you need anything, you'll have to knock, because it doesn't open from the inside." I thought to myself, Oh yes, I am familiar with that. Your kind and mine go way back.

While I sat in the back of the cop car, I got a text from that friend of mine whom I just sat face-to-face with 30 minutes ago. I was in her living room, owning up to my selfishness, and we were both sobbing healing tears together. Before I left her house I let her know that if there was anything at all that she remembered that we hadn't talked about that hurt her, to not hesitate to tell me. I wanted to know so I could make things right.

So here I was, sitting in the back of this cop car, getting a text from her asking me about lies I had told. She was asking me what the truth was. I looked up over the dashboard of the cop car. I contemplated this accident and thought, Am I willing to go to any lengths for freedom?

So I texted her back. I didn't change the subject. I didn't bring up the accident. I didn't use it as an excuse to shy away and make her feel sorry for me. I didn't lie. I told the truth. I owned up. I faced the reality of my past, sitting right here in the middle of my present, and answered her questions.

Soon my boyfriend arrived to get me and the police officer opened the car door. I thanked him for keeping me warm. I thought to myself, Look at this, I'm being let out of this cop car. What a story where I come from.

After I pay rent this month, I'll have just \$40 in my checking account. I have no idea what's coming next. I don't have a car right now. But what I feel and know in my heart is this: Nothing, absolutely nothing, can touch the peace and serenity that is in me. Nothing can touch the Promises I get from being willing to do these Ninth Step amends. Not even a car accident and the loss of material things.

It's now 11 o'clock the following morning and I'm sitting at my kitchen table crying because I am so grateful God has brought me to this place. I'm sober. And today, I'm a good and honest friend. Funny how healing works.

Katie S. ,West Bend, WI, AA Grapevine, Feb., 2017



**The Ninth Tradition**  
**WE DO SET UP COMMITTEES**  
**AND BOARDS...**  
**But whether they make coffee**  
**or help organize groups in Africa...**  
**THEY ONLY SERVE**

This Tradition at first seems to contradict the idea of “keeping it simple” that Dr. Bob’s last words to Bill W. suggested. However, it is quite the opposite. Something to grasp from this Tradition is that it says that the service boards or committees are directly responsible to those they serve. It does not say that they have any au-thority over those they serve.

For any organization to work it needs some sort of central clearing house to help keep information and actions consistent. AA is now a world-wide organization. We have over 83 years of experience of past groups to learn from. We also have Tradition Five that states that our Primary Purpose is to carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. The whole idea of service boards and committees is to help carry out our Primary Purpose.

This is also necessary at the group level. In order to keep the doors open at a meeting and have the coffee made, members volunteer their service to make sure that these tasks are accomplished. Most groups use AA literature in their meetings to help carry the message. If it was up to each group to produce its own literature, it would be next to impossible. We would end up with a watered down Program that is not consistent. Today, you can walk into almost any AA meeting and you will find the basic AA principles being followed. We use common literature. The General Service Office and Intergroup offices make sure that we have what we need.

The committees and boards are a way for all groups to come together and share their experience and update or create new literature and guidelines. Every group has a voice in these tasks by sending representatives to Intergroup meetings, Area assemblies and General Service Conferences. By having this central organization, we not only know what has become accepted practice, but also we can learn what has not worked and why it did not work.

P-43, Twelve Concepts Illustrated, A.A.W.S.

## **Need a Meeting?** ***There’s an App For That***

It’s free and is available for both iPhone and Android users. It is called “*The Meeting Guide*”, and it can help you find a meeting almost anywhere you go in the world.

There are nearly 200 Central Offices, Intergroups, etc., that are linked together in this worldwide project that lists more than 76,000 AA meetings. These include 271 AA meetings in the Naples Area, 653 meetings in Continental Europe, 96 in Israel, 43 in Tokyo, 104 in Romania, 548 in Cancun, 5,633 in Hawaii, 2,127 in Los Angeles, and tens of thousands of others in the rest of the U.S. and Canada.

You can download the app, and read more about it at <https://meetingguide.org/> It works almost too simply for alcoholic brains to handle. If you keep the GPS on your phone turned on it will know where you are. The app will open to the city you are in, as long as the city is part of the system, and then lists the day’s meetings and the times they begin. Click on the meeting you’re interested in and the address shows. Click again and the GPS takes over and gives directions. There is a complete list of countries and cities on the website. And the list keeps getting longer as more and more AA Central Office and Intergroups join.

According to the website: “We have formed a non-profit corporation to operate the app. All accounts and passwords are now managed by the nonprofit. If anything happens to the founder, the app will continue to operate independently.”

The creators also promise that the app will always be free and never run any advertising.

Some people have said they would be more comfortable if the AA General Service Office ran it. The app’s creators agree: “We want to give it to them. We’ve submitted a proposal to AAWS (on June 5, 2017) to give them the app and help them continue to develop it. We have had subsequent conversations with staff and board members there, and have heard they are considering the offer.

We don’t expect it to be accepted immediately, but it will remain open indefinitely.”

# Concept IX

Concept Nine is a favorite of mine. Bill W.'s essay, "Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need," is embedded in the presentation of the Concept in our Service Manual. In my mind, that essay should be required reading for every A.A. member. Especially in this season of elections at the group, District, and Area levels, we should all be informed and intentional about choosing who it is among us that we think could best put our A.A. principles into action in service to the Fellowship.

But for as many times as I have read through Concept Nine, this time I was surprised to remember how much importance Bill placed on how our groups go about choosing their GSRs (General Service Representatives). Bill writes that GSRs are "the direct agents of A.A. groups; these are the indispensable linkage between our Fellowship and its world service; these are the primary representatives of A.A.'s group conscience." Because of our general service structure, it truly is GSRs who most influence the election of our other trusted servants. GSRs have an overarching power to set the tone for A.A. by who they elect to District officer positions, Area Officer positions, and especially when electing our Delegates. Accordingly, Bill emphasizes that "great care needs to be taken by the groups as they choose these Representatives."

Because of how important a role GSRs play, I cringe to hear of groups who make a habit of electing or appointing some of their newest, least-informed members to the GSR position. The argument usually goes that it will be good for these inexperienced members to jump in and learn from their mistakes – that none of us knew what we were doing when we took any of our jobs in A.A. And for all its good intentions, we often hear an old cliché that A.A. (or God) doesn't choose the qualified, it (or God) qualifies the chosen. I understand the desire to include newcomers in A.A. right from the start. But it sets up the newcomer and A.A. for failure – which is not the intent of our general service structure.

After reading how important the GSR role was in Bill's eyes, it is odd then to see how few groups even bother selecting a GSR. As Delegate, I have had the pleasure to present over 40 Delegate's Reports to Districts over the past two years. I have

attended dozens of Area Assemblies over my many years in general service. Most of the time, we feel fortunate to have even 10 or 20 percent of our active groups represented by a GSR at one of these events.

It is easy to lament the lack of commitment of groups or individual A.A. members when seeing the number of attendees. But I would put some of the blame on how we have structured our A.A. service events and our A.A. service calendar. Most A.A. members, like anyone who is asked to serve in any capacity, are glad to show up and do their part when they are given meaningful opportunities to contribute, to discuss, to decide, and to take action. Unfortunately, our service structure has made even our Area Assemblies – where GSRs are supposed to be most actively engaged with our world services – a long day of reports, presentations, and sometimes, not a single vote or discussion of an issue relevant to our groups. No wonder we see less participation. Maybe it's time to revisit what our service structure and our annual calendar is intended to accomplish. And to gather the input from those groups and GSRs who are not attending along with those too-few GSRs who do. These are the most important voices. Otherwise, those of us who have been long-time attendees, rotating from position to position over decades, will probably continue to perpetuate a structure and a system that will get the same meager participation we're currently getting.

In the meantime, in this season of A.A. elections, we should look for the most qualified and most experienced candidates for each position. By placing the right people in the right jobs, we develop trusted servants who can take on increasingly more demanding service positions. We can each do our part to make sure that the groups we attend have a GSR and that the people we choose to fill those roles are our most qualified members. Then we can send them into the general service structure with confidence, knowing that our GSRs will be a great influence on the rest of the service structure. Look around and encourage the active, committed A.A.s you know to stand for the GSR position. Then support them as they go out to do the work our Fellowship needs done.

Curt K., Delegate  
—Panel 67, Area 36—South Minnesota





## Online Meetings

<http://www.aa-intergroup.org/directory.php>

AA-Alive.net. An Online Meeting and Chat Room

<http://www.aa-alive.net/>

AA Chat Meetings

<http://www.stepchat.com/aa.htm>

AA Online.net., conducts open topic meetings online very much like face-to-face meetings

<http://www.aaonline.net/>

AA Online Meeting.net., English speaking Skype based online

<http://www.aaonlinemeeting.net/>

Alcoholics Anonymous Online Group., AA Beginner Newcomer OPEN to the Public Discussion Forum Meeting Online <http://www.onlinegroupaa.org/> is

mobile device friendly. Grateful Recovering Online Women's (GROW) Group <http://www.g-r-o-w.com/>

Lamplighters Group of AA., We share our experience, strength and hope with each other over the Internet, and via email

<http://www.aa-lamplighters.org/>

Staying Cyber

AA Meeting for the www

<http://www.stayingcyber.org/>

## Leave The Past Behind

Hal Moffett

You can't put the petal back on a rose  
Or change the four winds that blow  
So let it go, let it go—get it off your mind  
LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND

You can't put the ring back in a bell  
And any fool knows this well  
So let it go, let it go—ease your worried mind  
LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND

You can't change a word, or things that used to be  
Yesterday is his-to-ry  
So forget what was, and live for what is  
For you and only you can set you free

The petal from the rose, the ring from the bell  
All gone with the four winds that blow  
So let it go, let it go—free your troubled mind  
LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND...

Heard at a Meeting:

*Don't look down on other people  
unless you are bending over to help them.*

**FINANCES****August****YTD****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	3,089	33,313
Group Contributions	1,291	14,826
AA Birthdays		630
Faithful Five	20	195
Anonymous		

**Total Income**

4,542 49,107

**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees	71	582
Travel/Licenses/Permits		
Office Supplies	70	879
Office Improvement		
Payroll Net	1,618	12,947
Payroll Tax		3,568
Postage		32
Printing		2,387
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	2,425	20,548
Insurance	567	567
Rent	500	4,000
Sales Tax		1,751
Telephone/www	192	1,507
Utilities	100	800

Contributions

Computer Software 543

Computer Maintenance 74

Computer Equipment

**Total Expenses**

5,543 50,197

**Net Ordinary Income**

-1,001 -1,090

Other Income 1,147

Other Expenses 1,098

**NET OTHER INCOME**

59

**TOTAL INCOME**

-1,001 -1,031

## 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

Cary White  
P.O. Box 56  
Sebring FL 33870  
(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	August	YTD
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482 .....	0	94
Aprendiendo A Vivre, 176467 .....	0	0
Back To Basics .....	0	0
Beach Bums 641645 .....	0	250
Big Book Comes Alive, 710427 .....	0	20
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101 .....	0	0
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630 .....	0	70
Big Book Study, 662395 .....	0	0
Bonita Awareness, 124788 .....	0	0
Bonita Banyan, 176463 .....	0	0
Bonita Beginners .....	0	148
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997 .....	0	539
Bonita Men, 654428 .....	0	0
Bonita Saturday Night .....	0	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493 .....	0	759
Bonita Springs Women's 169127 .....	0	583
Bonita Springs Step, 134588 .....	0	0
Bonita Unity, 103316 .....	0	200
Bring Your Own Big Book .....	0	192
Brown Bag, 163924 .....	400	680
Burning Desire, 653891 .....	0	200
Cake Meeting .....	0	25
Came to Believe, 615490 .....	0	0
Candlelight, 606877 .....	0	0
Common Solutions, 179613 .....	0	1,177
Early Reflections, 653770 .....	400	1,008
Early Riser, 161795 .....	0	1,008
East Trail, 150873 .....	0	0
Easy Does It, 156979 .....	0	450
Free 2 Be, 6700930 .....	0	258
Friday Big Book .....	0	50
Girlfriends, 678117 .....	0	50
Golden Gate, 123819 .....	0	0
Good Orderly Direction, 642330 .....	0	0
Gratitude Hour, 134223 .....	0	250
Happy Hour, 172923 .....	0	0
Jaywalkers, 634271 .....	0	0
Keep It Positive, 650541 .....	0	0
Keep It Simple, 651598 .....	0	383
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950 .....	0	75
Lil'White House .....	0	240
Living Sober, 605904 .....	0	37
Living Sober Isle of Capri .....	0	0
Men Of Naples, 634030 .....	0	585
Morning Reflections, 660700 .....	51	711
Naples Group, 103609 .....	0	250
Naples Men's, 694322 .....	0	75
Naples South, 130210 .....	0	234
Naples Young People, 699130 .....	0	0
New Dawn, 632504 .....	0	0
New Women (Thursday noon) .....	0	400
Newcomers Coming Together, 684199 .....	0	0
No Compromise, 681260 .....	0	0
Not A Glum Lot .....	0	80
Nueva Vida .....	0	0
Old Timers, 698956 .....	0	0
One Day At A Time, 120975 .....	0	225

Group/Meeting	August	YTD
Our Common Welfare .....	0	138
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323 .....	0	0
Pay It Forward, 704772 .....	0	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715 .....	0	675
Saturday Morning Girlfriends .....	0	0
Spiritual Solutions, 720796 .....	0	0
Start Where You Are .....	0	0
Step By Step .....	238	321
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	359
Sunset Serenity, 654981 .....	0	0
Survivor's, 157268 .....	0	50
SW 239 BID .....	0	0
Swamp Group, 672733 .....	0	80
Tables of Naples, 147671 .....	0	250
Third Tradition, 143298 .....	0	60
Three Legacies, 679400 .....	0	75
Thursday Women .....	0	200
Unity Noon Step .....	0	113
Unity Step .....	51	133
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923 .....	150	150
Wanderers, Ave Maria .....	0	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011 .....	0	436
Wednesday Step St. Johns .....	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.



# Ego Surrender

For reasons still obscure, the program and the fellowship of AA could cause a surrender, which in turn would lead to a period of no drinking. It became ever more apparent that in everyone's psyche there existed an unconquerable ego which bitterly opposed any thought of defeat. Until that ego was somehow reduced

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AA, still  
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ebrating a third or fourth anniversary of one of the groups. The speaker immediately preceding me told in detail of the efforts of his local groups-which consisted of two men-to get him to dry up and become its third member.

After several months of vain efforts on their part and repeated nose dives on his, the speaker went on to say: "Finally, I got cut down to size and have been sober ever since," a matter of some two or three years. When my turn came to speak, I used his phrase "cut down to size," as a text around which to weave my remarks. Before long, out of the corner of my eye, I became conscious of a disconcerting stare. It was coming from the previous speaker.

It was perfectly clear: He was utterly amazed that he had said anything which made sense to a psychiatrist. The incident showed that two people, one approaching the matter clinically and the other relying on his own intuitive report of what has happened to him, both came up with exactly the same observation: the need for ego reduction. It is common knowledge that a return of the full-fledged ego can happen at any time.

Years of sobriety are no insurance against its resurgence. No AA's, regardless of their veteran status, can ever relax their guard against a reviving ego. The function of surrender in AA is now clear. It produces that stopping by causing the individual to say, "I quit.

I give up on my headstrong ways. I've learned my lesson." Very often for the first time in that individual's adult career, he has encountered the necessary discipline that halts him in his headlong pace. Actually, he is lucky to have within him the capacity to surrender. It is that which differentiates him from the wild animals. And this happens because we can surrender and truly feel, "Thy will, not mine, be done."

Unfortunately, that ego will return unless the individual learn to accept a disciplined way of life, which means the tendency toward ego comeback, is permanently checked. This is not news to AA members. They have learned that a single surrender is not enough. Under the wise leadership of the AA "founding fathers" the need for continued endeavor to maintain that miracle has been steadily stressed.

The Twelve Steps urge repeated inventories, not just one, and the Twelfth Step is in itself a routine reminder that one must work at preserving sobriety. Moreover, it is referred to as Twelfth Step work-which is exactly what it is. By that time, the miracle is for the other person.

Source – By Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, M.D., Akron InterGroup  
News, July, 2013 Central Bulletin

## THE LITTLE THINGS

Like most people, we have found that we can take our big lumps as they come. But also like others, we often discover a greater challenge in the lesser and more continuous problems of life. Our answer is in still more spiritual development. Only by this means can we improve our chances for really happy and useful living.

- Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 114

## SUPPORT AA CENTRAL OFFICE...

Please purchase your literature from Central Office!  
We have books, birthday medallions, specialty  
and special order medallions, cards, recovery  
gifts, (aka DRUNK JUNK!)

Thank You

# 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	45	Beach Bums
Ron L.	07/24/78	38	Gratitude Hour
Don M.	03/09/80	38	Bonita Unity
Rad W.	08/20/85	33	Gratitude Hour
Jackie T. F.	04/25/84	33	Morning Reflection
Dennis F.	07/15/84	27	Unity Step
Richard K.	11/25/90	27	Miami
Peter F.	03/01/95	23	Easy Does It
Bill S.	01/11/02	16	Brown Bag
Mary B.	07/22/02	16	Brown Bag
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
Sarah B.		14	
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

## Welcome James B. **FAITHFUL FIVERS**

KAREN B., (04/17), RON L., (07/18), 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:

Jerry E., 776-6767  
chair@district20aa.org

Alt. Chair:

Mike B., 777-4812  
altchair@district20aa.org

Treasurer:

Jordon M., 331-9545  
treasurer@district20aa.org

Registrar:

Mary B., 777-8066  
registrar@district20aa.org

Secretary:

Tiffany M. 227-8669  
secretary@district20aa.org

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

Robert C., 784-8514  
bcrowe616@aol.com  
treatment@district20aa.org  
Business meeting the first  
Thursday of each month at  
7 p.m., 24 Hour Club

**Corrections**

Blake B., 285-7174  
corrections@district20aa.org  
Business meeting the second  
Tuesday of each month at  
5:30 p.m., 24 Hour Club

**Public Information/CPC**

Ronny P., 269-8251  
Business meeting the first  
Wednesday of each month at  
7pm, 24 Hour Club

**Grapevine/Literature**

Mary B., 777-8066  
Business meeting the third  
Tuesday of each month at  
5:30p.m., 24 Hour Club

**Archives**

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

**Current Practices  
Opportunity****District 20 Website**

Peggy P.E., 269-7651

*The Courier* is published monthly by the *Naples Area Intergroup of Alcoholic Anonymous* with an office located at 1509 Pine Ridge Road, Unit B, 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

**District 20  
Business Meeting:**

Last Wednesday of the  
Month 7pm  
Faith Lutheran Church  
4150 Goodlette Road N.,  
Naples, 34103  
**6pm GSR sharing**  
7pm Meeting

**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 Pine Ridge Rd.  
Unit B  
(next to 24 Hour Club)

First Wednesday of  
month at 7:00pm

**Area 15; Panel 67**

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

**Delegate:** Annie C.  
delegate@area15aa.org

**Alt. Del.:** Shirley P.  
altdelegate@area15aa.org

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**Treasurer:** Cary W.  
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**Registrar:** Kevin D  
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**Secretary:** Lisa D.  
secretary@area15aa.org

**SERVICE  
helps us  
stay sober**

**Naples Intergroup****Trusted Servants**

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**Secretary:**

Brandon M., 438-5299  
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**Treasurer:**

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

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Opportunity  
Opportunity

**www**

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naplesintergroup@yahoo.com  
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Fax (239) 262-0560  
www.aanaples.org

**Office Hours:**

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

**Office Volunteers:**

Judy W., Tona W.,  
Ron M., Peter C  
Ivan B., Diane B.  
Nikki E., Abby R.,  
Mary B., Kathleen H.,  
Mary Pat B., Mari D.,  
...and loyal Substitutes

**After Hours Phone**

Mary B., 877-8066