

THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup
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October, 2020

Outside Issues

Inside A.A.

The phrase “outside issues” is from the Tenth Tradition and refers to what A.A. is *not* supposed to have an opinion about. Yet, it seems that “outside issues” are discussed in A.A. meetings all the time and (hold on to your hat!) even find their way into this Newsletter.

So how do we justify this in an A.A. meeting or in an A.A. publication? The truth is that the Tenth Tradition’s prohibition is against taking a public position as an *institution*. It *isn’t* against discussing issues within the fellowship that effect how we operate or how we work the program , as long as those discussions lead to right action. The *Twelve & Twelve* states: “Human beings that we are, we squabble...(The squabbles) were almost always concerned with ways to make A.A. more effective, how to do the most good for the most alcoholics.” (p.177-178). So this is the intention in presenting thought-provoking articles as well as discussions in our A.A. meetings: to make us better at helping the alcoholic who still suffer.

Step Ten

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

The Broken Pulley

Some years ago, I realized that much of the great staying power of the AA program is wrapped up in Step Ten: "Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it." In my opinion, this Step suggests the daily practice of Steps Four through Nine and is designed to keep us from lapsing into complacency and self-righteousness.

Step Ten has saved me from more mistakes than I can count. But time and again, I've delayed taking this Step--because of pride and fear. One of my sneakiest evasions has simply been in posing as morally superior to the person I have wronged.

Since I'm more comfortable discussing past sins than those I'm committing today, I've talked recently about the time I broke the cast-iron pulley in the Detroit engine plant where I worked in 1952. I can find no better example of using the other person's faults to gloss over my own mistakes--even when there's no logical connection.

At the time of the broken-pulley incident, I was well into my second year of AA sobriety. For the first time in my life--and as a result of AA--I was doing the right things, such as getting -ting to work on time and paying my way in life. AA sobriety had enabled me to graduate from alternating periods of homelessness and dependency to a steady life. I was grateful or my job in a clean factory with good benefits, and I even had a new car to drive to meetings.

Though I was getting along well with fellow workers, I was secretly critical of our foreman, Chris. His sin? Well, in my view he was a terrible bigot, particularly toward blacks who wanted to move into his all-white residential neighborhood. By contrast, I considered myself an exemplar of true racial tolerance. After all, I attended interracial AA meetings in Detroit and sometimes lunched with blacks in the company cafeteria. This, I imagined, demonstrated that I was far ahead of Chris and the older members of my family in social responsibility.

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

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

CONCEPT TEN: *“Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority - the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.”*

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; and 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? 5
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?

Beginning of the Maintenance Steps

Understanding the Disease of Alcoholism Takes Time

By Rick R.

After being in the program for a while, it occurred to me that initially, there was no way I could have performed all the measures suggested in the steps on my first go-around. Coming from an alcoholic's approach to the issues we plan to address, we eventually come to understand that we can only give it our best effort to start the process. Understanding the disease of alcoholism takes time. We can however establish a framework without concluding that we have completed the steps. As we continue to grow in the program more will be revealed about the steps taken and that is where step 10 becomes the opportunity to revisit past steps and fill in the empty spaces as we evolve. That does not mean that we cannot address those issues when we become aware of them. If we stay sober long enough to get to this level of understanding we will continue to repair our broken relations with others and clear up legal, marital and financial problems that can be a distraction when it comes to looking at the deeper rooted emotional, mental and spiritual issues. We cannot ignore the need for up-keep and maintenance in the program no more than we can ignore the Up-keep and maintenance when we purchase a new car. Brake shoes wear thin, oil gets dirty, coolant evaporates etc. ... The same effect takes place in the process of recovery. If we become complacent at any level of this process, as it often happens, we may relapse or, miss out on the promises set forth in step nine.

Step Ten, "Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it". (BB Pg. 59) I believe that most of the members of A.A. that actually go through the steps, as suggested in the Big Book, have been doing this to some degree since they became aware of it in the 4th and 5th steps, and the reason why they reintroduced us to this topic in the tenth step was to make it clear that we will continue to do this for the rest of our lives. We are never finished when it comes to taking the steps. There is a line that we cross if we are committed to the goal of becoming the best we can be in life and that is where we stop asking "Why we must do all the things that the program suggests" to a point where we start asking the question "Why wouldn't we do these things that result in freedom of the mind. The biggest misconception that we have is the idea that, somehow, we are responsible for becoming an alcoholic and this is simply not the case. Alcoholism is a disease that we did not have the capacity to decide to become afflicted with when we were born. You might say that alcoholism is a byproduct of guilt, shame, and low self-esteem based on habits and deeds of the past. When we took our first drink it did something for us than it did not do for the normal person. It masks all our fears and insecurities temporarily but did not erase those embarrassing behaviors from our minds and our conscience. We behaved poorly as we evolved through our adolescence and young adulthood due to the fears and inhibitions

associated with alcoholism. Who could fault the person who discovers they have a disease, takes it upon themselves to treat that disease, restores and accounts for all the faulty behaviors that stem from that disease, makes restitution and becomes a model citizen? This is the natural development that evolves as the result of taking the steps and continue the up-keep and maintenance process and I Thank God that the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has taken one hell of a load off my mind and I am at peace mentally when my head hits the pillow at night.

For this AA, this was the Step that helped him become an adult

The Tenth Step is the teen years of the Steps for me. This Step makes me start acting like an adult or make my amends. For me, it is about honesty, humility, courage and acceptance.

Honesty is something I had to learn. I am still learning how to be completely honest. In "how it works," it talks a little about honesty. I needed to grasp and develop a manner of living that demands rigorous honesty. I learned how to look at my actions with honesty: Did I do my best? Were my actions based on fear, anger or love? Am I looking at my actions, and not just my intentions? Am I telling the whole story or just the parts I want others to hear? And at the end of the day, I ask myself:

Did I do what I said I would do?

Humility teaches me that there are other people here besides me. I'm not always first or last; sometimes others get the job, the girl, or whatever it is sometimes. With humility, I can learn what my strengths and weaknesses are and what I'm good

at and what I need to work on. I'm no better or worse than anyone else. I've learned that there is no "us or them," nor "me

or you." There is only "we." We are all just trying to get through this life as best we can. I have to remember to pray for courage to do the things I need to do and to do God's will. I need to pray for the courage to change my actions when I'm having problems with people, places and things. And courage to look at my part in a problem and make my amends. I ask for the courage to do the mundane things in life I need to do but don't want to. And the courage to do things to improve my life. Lastly, I pray for the courage to say I'm wrong

Acceptance has a big learning curve for me. I try not to waste so much time trying to change things that aren't mine to change. Acceptance for me is that I'm the one who needs to change in accordance with people, places and things.

-- Jeff H., Columbia, Missouri Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. (September 2014). Reprinted with permission.

Principles, What a Way to Live

Principles are Not Flexible

By Rick R.

When I entered the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, I *identified* with just about everything I had read and heard, and I began to recognize where I went wrong up to that point. I realized that I had **no direction in my life**, *no moral compass* to speak of, and that the failure in my personal relationships manifested itself in low self-esteem (self-loathing). I felt inferior, unworthy, disrespected, isolated, unappreciated, disliked, etc. etc. I was going to have to depend on something outside of myself to govern my judgment and my decision-making. One of the first default positions I would take to surrender to these new realities was to concede to the fact that, as an alcoholic, *my brain did not process information properly*, and that I was going to have to trust in something more reliable. Living by *Principles, What a Concept!* There are people who believe that if we all lived by one simple principle, we wouldn't need any other laws on this planet, and that principle is *The Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you*. That simple statement gave me an understanding of how I could begin adopting a value system, based on principles, where I did not have to originate my own rules. While reading a book on economics, the author stated that *"a man who lives by principles has 99% of his decisions are already made for him"*. With that in mind, I began to establish a system of principles that are consistent with the AA program, and, I might add, with most of the other successful philosophies of life. I would read the *St. Francis Prayer in the 12X12* daily. *I attend a step study meeting weekly to reinforce these principles*. I try to make sure that I am not modifying these standards to evade the tougher actions. I was complaining about another member of our group one day, to one of my mentors at that time, and he suggested that I try to *place principles before personalities*. I responded, yes, but I do not agree with his principles. He then said it was not *his principles* that we are talking about, but that it was *my principles that needed to change*. He then informed me that we cannot be selective about who and when we apply these values. I must treat everyone with respect, and that goes for *the smallest, innocent child to the most errant rogue that I might encounter*. I know that it seems like an impossible task, but I assure you that if you start with the child and work your way to the rogue, it will get easier, if you don't let your ego convince you otherwise.

There are many suggestions in the Big Book and the 12X12 that have given me plenty of material to work with so that *this does not have to become a crisis management project*. It is more like *a lifelong pruning of my unwanted, destructive behaviors*. Here are a few of those suggestions: *Restraint of tongue and pen, Drop the word blame from your thoughts and speech, Stop fighting everyone and everything*, and so on. I have adopted some variations of my own such as: *I cannot read minds, I cannot control anyone but myself, everybody gets amnesty*. I am sure you can add to the list. When I practiced this approach long enough to see the *change in my self-esteem*, I realized that I am no better or worse than anyone else and that my brain had been lying to me. If we all had amnesia, we would all be pretty much the same. *The only thing that makes us different is the things we carry around between our ears*. It may be time to reprogram the mental software to default to the principles that have proven to work so well for so many. No one could ever fault us for living by the principles that we learned in AA.

Like a Ship at Sea

IN search for a daily "operating schedule" which would help to make the tenth step habitual and as pleasant as possible, the writer hit upon the following analogy and found it helpful.

On a ship's bridge, at sea, the navigator is charged with keeping his ship on her course. When he is piloting near islands, shoals and coastal waters, he must constantly take sights or bearings of rocks, light-houses, mountain peaks and other reference points that appear on his chart. The compass bearings of these objects from his ship enable him to mark his progress on the chart and to steer a safe course.

The point of the analogy is that the navigator constantly regards each of the menacing objects in the sea around him as *aids* to the safe passage of his vessel. As long as he notes the bearing of each one it cannot harm him.

The "sighting" or experiencing of fear, resentment, self-pity, anger and self-righteousness doesn't mean that the ship is off her course at all. Each is a menace to be expected and encountered every day of a normal busy life. If, however, the watch on the bridge is habitually alert, the menace can be an aid to safe passage.

*Frank M., Piedmont, California Grapevine Oct 1950
Vol 7 No 5.*

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Detroit factories for thirty years or more. Surprisingly, he worked well with the blacks in the company. He was also fair and forgiving of mistakes, as he was the day I broke the pulley.

It went this way: In assembling special diesel engine units for our customers, our job was to install accessories on the basic engines received from the assembly line. This included installing drive pulleys onto the engine shafts. Performing such an installation one day, I was too impatient to find the wooden block that was usually used to tap the pulley into place, so I tapped directly with my hammer instead.

I had been able to get away with this several times before, but this time the worst happened--I broke the thin wall of the pulley groove. Since all expensive breakages like this had to be accounted for by the foreman, I reluctantly reported it to Chris.

I can still remember my embarrassment as Chris looked over the pulley and slowly shook his head. "How did it happen?" he asked. "Didn't you use a wooden block to drive it on?"

My first thought was to lie about it--to say that I used the block but the hammer slipped and struck the thin part of the pulley anyway. The AA program, however, had given me enough honesty to sidestep such a lie, so I frankly admitted that I had been careless. Chris sighed, wrote up the damaged part on the necessary scrap form, and then said curtly, "Under the contract, I could suspend you three days for this. But I'll let it go this time. Just see that you do things the right way after this."

I should have been relieved and grateful. There were other foremen in the plant who issued suspensions for such violations, so Chris was well within his rights. Even the union contract conceded the necessity for suspensions for negligent work. I was being let off gently.

But instead of being grateful, I felt furious and humiliated for the rest of the afternoon. And whenever the thought of the incident came back again, I also felt a resentment toward Chris. Sure I was guilty of breaking the pulley. But what right did he have to pass judgment on me in such a brusque manner when he was guilty of the far greater shortcoming of racial bigotry?

If this sounds like twisted reasoning, it certainly was. Chris's racial bigotry or other personal faults had nothing to do with the issue of my work performance. In the matter of the broken pulley, Chris was 100 percent right and I was 100 percent wrong. When I broke the pulley, I had shortchanged the company and reduced the output in Chris's section. He had every right to be upset. It was as simple as that, and I should have admitted it *promptly*.

That was nearly forty years ago. I worked for Chris only a few more months before joining the company where I was to work for thirty-three years, mostly in public relations. The broken-pulley incident became very minor in comparison with other work responsibilities that came later, and it may seem to have little to do with the business of living sober in AA. But as I view the matter now, it's a great example of how the Tenth Step should have been employed, then and at all times when I was clearly wrong. My sobriety would have been far richer without this devious practice of mentally switching to the other person's faults when I made serious mistakes.

I employed the same trick later on. One thing to work on time and paying my way in life. AA sobriety had enabled me to graduate from alternating periods of homelessness and dependency to a steady life. I was grateful for my job in a clean factory with good benefits, and I even had a new car to drive to meetings.

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Aside from his racial views, Chris was an excellent boss. He understood production and had worked in the Detroit factories for thirty years or more. Surprisingly, he worked well with the blacks in the company. He was also fair and forgiving of mistakes, as he was the day I broke the pulley.

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So it's a good thing, today, to remind myself that all attempts to indict those who criticize me are simply the broken-pulley incident in new forms. The Tenth Step--like all of AA's inventory steps--says nothing about the other person's wrongs. The only issue I ever have to deal with is any wrong I have committed in thought or deed. And I am responsible for admitting and facing such wrongs, even though the others involved may have wrongs of their own which they are not admitting or facing.

This may seem to be a humiliating, one-sided arrangement. Why should I be the one who must always admit his wrong? But it is only foolish pride and fear that would make me ask such a question. In truth, I can only gain in being able to come to a quick understanding of my mistakes when they occur. Extending this principle to all my affairs, it sometimes helps me correct a bad practice or a proposal before it has time to result in further damage. In one case, it even helped me avoid a job change that would have been very costly.

If Chris were still with us today, I think I'd look him up and discuss that broken-pulley incident with him. I don't know if his racial views would have changed over the years, but I'd stay off that subject. My aim would be only to tell him I appreciated working for him. He was a very competent foreman, and maybe he should have issued the three-day suspension.

But he did get his point across. I never broke another pulley.

Mel B., Toledo, OH

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I'm not wr _ _ g.

If it weren't for working the Steps on a daily basis, I don't think I could live life on life's terms. The one Step that has made a dramatic impact on my life is Step Ten. I am one of those alcoholics who has a wr _ _ g.. I even have trouble saying or typing the word. I know I'm not alone. Anyway, I used to hate this Step. I had a particularly bad relationship with my older daughter. We screamed at each other a lot. I kept doing or saying mean, hateful things. Then I'd talk to my sponsor and snivel and whine about making amends. I hated to make amends to that kid. I'd rather scrub toilets with a toothbrush than make amends to her. When I did, she'd look at me with that MTV look (the one that says "If I cared at all, I'd hate you") and say, "It's about time." She was nasty and hateful and mean and spiteful.

I'd try to justify my behavior to my sponsor, so I wouldn't have to make amends. One day, my sponsor suggested that if I hated making amends so much, maybe I could try not to do the things I had to make amends for--i.e., why didn't I change my behavior? What a concept! She suggested that I practice restraint of tongue and pen.

I took my sponsor's suggestions. I worked really hard at changing my behavior. I knew it wouldn't change anything because my daughter was still mean, hateful, and spiteful, but at least I wouldn't have to make amends to her.

Well, as you've probably guessed, a remarkable thing occurred: not only did I not have to make amends, but she became less mean, less spiteful, less hateful. In fact, she started being nice. It even occurred to me that maybe it wasn't all her fault that we didn't get along. Whoa, Nelly!

Today, my daughter and I have a wonderful relationship. She talks to me about her life, her loves, her problems. I owe this relationship to the Tenth Step. If I hadn't hated making amends so much, I might not have been willing to change my behavior.

I have found similar results in all of my relationships. Over the years, I have tried to keep my behavior below amends level because I hate making amends. As a result, I act differently. And as a result of that, people respond differently. It's amazing.

Nancy H., Lake Forest CA

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Nancy H., Lake Forest, California
With permission The AA Grapevine, Inc., October,
2001

No connection with step #4.

In step #4, it calls for a searching and fearless *Moral* inventory. This step calls for a *personal* inventory. This step is our daily check on ourselves.

At night, after you are in bed and the day is over; review your day and pray. Think about your day, what you have done, who you were with and what has transpired. If you find something that you are not proud of apologize. Do not permit these things to go unattended.

It is not the so-called "big" things which seriously affect the alcoholic in their new life, but the "little" things. Diligent practice of the 10th Step every day reinforces that character defects quickly become damned obvious on a daily basis. Admitting a wrong is difficult. We have entered the world of the Spirit. Our next function is to grow in understanding and effectiveness. This is not an overnight matter. It should continue for our lifetime.

Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear. When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them. We discuss them with someone immediately and make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone. And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone - even alcohol. For by this time sanity will have returned. We will seldom be interested in liquor. If tempted, we recoil from it as from a hot flame. We react sanely and normally.

That is the miracle of it. We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition. To some extent we have become God-conscious. We have begun to develop this vital sixth sense.

FINANCES	Sep.	YTD
<u>Income</u>		
Literature/Merchandise	\$2,708	\$24,048
Group Contributions	2,014	10,996
AA Birthdays	22	1,120
Faithful Five	10	580
Individual/Anonymous	126	810
<u>Total Income</u>	4,880	37,554
<u>Expenses</u>		
Bank/Credit Card Fees	45	465
Travel/Licenses/Permits		30
Office Supplies	103	757
Office Improve/Repair	420	1,104
Contributions		
Payroll Net	1,711	15,400
Payroll Tax		3,340
Postage		87
Printing		371
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	959	13,469
Insurance		567
Rent	500	3,000
Sales Tax	279	1,632
Telephone/www	205	1,970
Utilities	100	600
Computer Equipment		
Computer Software		238
Computer/Maintain		
<u>Total Expenses</u>	4,335	43,029
<u>Net Ordinary Income</u>	545	-5,475
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
<u>NET OTHER INCOME</u>		
<u>NET INCOME</u>	\$545	\$-5,475

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

1509-2 Pine Ridge Road
Naples, FL 34109
(50%)

General Service Office

P. O. Box 459
New York, N. Y. 10163
(30%)

District 20

District 20 Treasurer
P.O. Box 2896
Naples, FL 34106
(10%)

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*

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>YTD</u>
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482.....	0.....	124
24 Hour Solution	0.....	0
Aprendiendo A Vivre, 176467	0.....	0
Back To Basics.....	0.....	0
Beach Bums 641645	250.....	500
Big Book Comes Alive, 710427.....	0.....	276
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.....	285
Bonita Friday Night.....	0.....	0
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997	0.....	985
Bonita Men, 654428.....	0.....	400
Bonita Morning.....	0.....	408
Bonita Saturday Night	0.....	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	0.....	378
Bonita Springs Women's 169127	0.....	908
Bonita Springs Step,134588.....	0.....	40
Bonita Unity.....	0.....	100
Bring Your Own Big Book.....	25.....	25
Brown Bag, 163924	0.....	0
Cake Meeting, 701813.....	0.....	0
Came to Believe, 615490	0.....	0
Candlelight, 606877.....	0.....	0
Comes Of Age	0.....	0
Common Solutions, 179613.....	0.....	260
Early Reflections, 653770	0.....	0
Early Riser, 161795	500.....	724
East Trail, 150873.....	0.....	0
Easy Does It, 156979.....	0.....	0
Free 2 Be, 670930.....	0.....	276
Friday Big Book.....	0.....	0
Go To Any Length, 305375.....	0.....	0
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	280.....	430
Lil'White House 721896	0.....	0
Living Sober, 605904	0.....	0
Living Sober Isle of Capri.....	0.....	0
Men Of Naples, 634030	10.....	34
Men's Big Book	0.....	75
Monday Night Men Step 724529.....	0.....	0
Monday Noon Daily Reflections	7.....	64
Morning Reflections, 660700	0.....	500
Naples Group, 103609.....	0.....	500
Naples Men's, 694322	0.....	200
Naples South, 130210.....	0.....	0
Naples Young People, 699130	0.....	0
New Dawn, 632504	0.....	600
New Women (Thursday noon).....	0.....	200
Newcomers Coming Together, 684199.....	0.....	0
No Compromise, 681260	0.....	0
Not A Glum Lot.....	0.....	0
Nueva Vida.....	0.....	0
Old Timers, 698956	0.....	0

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>YTD</u>
One Day At A Time.....	0.....	174
Our Common Welfare	0.....	0
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323.....	0.....	0
Pay It Forward, 704772	0.....	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715.....	540.....	540
Saturday Morning Girlfriends 678117.....	0.....	0
Saturday Night Live.....	0.....	0
Spiritual Solutions, 720796.....	0.....	0
Start Where You Are.....	0.....	0
Step By Step.....	0.....	0
Step Into Life.....	0.....	60
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079.....	0.....	0
Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959	0.....	0
Sunset Serenity, 654981	0.....	0
Survivor's, 157268.....	0.....	129
SW 239 BID	0.....	0
Swamp Group, 672733.....	0.....	40
Tables Of Naples	0.....	76
The Solution Big Book Study Group 632503	0.....	0
Third Tradition,143298.....	0.....	0
Three Legacies, 679400	0.....	0
Thursday New Women	0.....	0
Unity Monday Noon Step.....	0.....	230
Unity Step.....	0.....	0
Veranda	0.....	0
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923.....	0.....	125
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	0.....	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011.....	0.....	227
Wednesday Step St. Johns	0.....	0
Where Are We.....	0.....	0
Women's Spirit	0.....	0
Women's Step,159957	0.....	0
YANA, 270553	0.....	199
ZOOM Noon	75.....	75

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.



An Island of Sanity

Many years ago, a nonalcoholic friend of AA who was one of our Class A trustees referred to Alcoholics Anonymous as "an island of sanity in a world gone mad." How true! And to keep it that way, we are guided

Yet I'm convinced that what goes on in the world around us does indeed affect AA in various ways--for the smoking/nonsmoking controversy, local drunk-driving laws, liability insurance requirements. Nonsmoking Drunk-driving laws result in forced rather than voluntary attendance at AA meetings, and while we don't check up on our own members, we sign proof of attendance slips in the spirit of cooperation with the courts or other agencies associated with them.

Other current issues are more subtle. At a recent AA service event, I heard comments on introduction/ identification ("I'm alcoholic").

some, this is a ly new custom was in practice to AA, eight-ago). The cus- ing meetings Lord's Prayer ways comes up erings, but is ed to holding getting into a was not done around).



John/I'm an According to comparative- although this when I came een years tom of clos- with the almost al- at such gath- now extend- hands and circle (which when I came

A long time ago, our co-founder Dr. Bob warned: "Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind, but have little to do with our actual AA work." Could he be referring to such expressions as "dysfunctional family" or "low self-esteem" which have crept into AA lingo in recent years? Not too long ago, I sponsored a young woman who felt like drinking all the time and consistently complained she was "not feeling good about herself." In frustration, I suggested that she might just as well drink rather than feel that bad all the time. I'd never, ever said that to anyone! She did drink but came back a few months later and has been sober ever since.

Last year, I attended a district-sponsored public information meeting, where a renowned clergyman/ psychiatrist very active in the treatment of addictions spoke. He expressed concern that the main goal of society today is to "feel good." In contrast, the goal of fellowships such as Alcoholics Anonymous is to "do good." And by concentrating on "doing good," people discover that they "feel good." He expressed his hope that the rest of society would learn this too.

We cannot--and should not--isolate ourselves from the world around us. Consequently, outside issues are bound to creep into our rooms. What we do about this--as individuals and as groups--depends on how well we learn about and apply--nay, live--the principles set down for us in all of our Twelve Traditions.

-- Lois C. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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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.	50 years
Ron L.	42 years
Don M.	39 years
Jim B.	38 years
Dennis F.	35 years
Rad W.	35 years
Jackie T. F.	36 years
Judy W.	34 years
Steve K.	28 years
Peter F.	24 years
Eileen D.	22 years
Bill S.	18 years
Mary B.	18 years
Laura T. F.	4 years
Bree F.	3 years



Faithful Fivers Needed



2020 Faithful Fiver Club

***Ron L., James B., Theresa R., Judy W., Kathryn Mc., Bill S.,
Jim B., Tim A., Wendy T.***

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.)

District 20 Officers:

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chairdistrict20aa@gmail.com
Alt. Chair:
Peter C., 784-7725
pete.curtner@yahoo.com
Treasurer:
Registrar:
Jill M., 309-3879
Secretary:
Dianna M., 248-6565
diannamusse@gmail.com

Service Committees:

Treatment/Accessibilities

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

Corrections

Jeff K., 776-5673
kepkajeffery@yahoo.com
Business meeting the second
Tuesday of each month at
5:30 p.m., 24 Hour Club

Public Information/CPC

Dawn L., 269-8251
Business meeting the second
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
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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..

Contributions from our readers are encouraged.

Submissions are edited for space and clarity only.

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:
Opportunity, Peggy W.
Ivan B., Eric S.
Ken H., Anne Marie C.
Nikki E., Don B.
Dave K., Pat S.
Peggy G., Opportunity
...and loyal Substitutes