

THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup
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Tradition Two

AA is both a democracy and, in Bill W's words, "a benign anarchy." A group elects its own officers – who have no power to order anybody to do anything. In most groups, most of the slate rotates out of office at the end of six months, and new officers are elected. If a group wants to be a part of the whole AA service structure, it elects a GSR (general service representative with a 2-yr term). GSRs elect area committee members and then join them in electing a delegate from their area to the annual General Service Conference. The Conference is about the closest approximation of a government that AA has; It produces opinions on important matters of policy; It approves the choice of some trustee nominees for the General Service Board and directly elects others. But neither the Conference nor the board can give orders to any group or member."

12 Traditions Illustrated

Promises, Promises

The big book contains many promises. Pages 83 and 84 in particular contain a bunch. One of my favorite, and one I especially appreciated during my sickness, is 'We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace.' I really value that gift. My serenity is almost as important to me as my sobriety. Note the word almost. But also note that by comprehending serenity, we will know peace. For most of us it is a peace that we have not known for years. After years of stealing, lying and checking our rear view mirrors every few seconds, could we finally have peace? Could we really have God grant us serenity? After the years of turbulence, the fights, the accidents, and the hangovers could we lay it all down. The book promises we can. Of course it requires action on our part. We have to be willing for God to change our attitudes and for us to stop and take a look at things differently. We have to train ourselves so that when those people are doing 25 in a 35 MPH speed zone, we can first think 'They're doing the best they can'. Of course that's acceptance rather than serenity. It's only serenity if we don't pull out a little to see what's in front of them. One last point on the promises. If you can truthfully say you haven't received the promises from the book after being in the program awhile, it's time to revisit the steps. Because if you've really done the steps, the promises always come. Have you really let go of the bottle mentally? Have you really listed all your resentments and fears? Have you really made your amends? Maybe it's a time for a redo. Well. It's good to be back. Alive and enjoying the promises.

STEP TWO: “Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

TRADITION TWO: “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”

CONCEPT TWO: “When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference—excepting for any change in the [Twelve Traditions](#) or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter—the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.”

2ND Step Prayer: I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity. I humbly ask that you remove all twisted thought & Addictive behavior from me this day. Heal my spirit & restore in me a clear mind.

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

- Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
- Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
- Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
- Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
- Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA
- In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?
- Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
- Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
- Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
- Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship?

Meeting Makers Make It — Sort Of (Relief is Not Release)

After twenty-plus years of unsuccessfully “*quitting drinking forever*,” I was finally taken to my [first AA meeting](#). I was coming off a three-day drinking binge, still pretty much in an incoherent daze. Although, I recall very little about that meeting, I do remember becoming very emotional during the Lord’s Prayer, and left with a very strong conviction that AA was really going to work for me. From then on, I became a full-speed-ahead meeting attendee, generally going to more than just one meeting a day for months on end.

As I began to share openly at meetings, as well as before and after, those uncomfortable feelings of anger, anxiety and depression slowly diminished. As a matter of fact, I would leave meetings feeling great! This blessed relief would last for hours, often till I got to my next AA meeting, then the happy cycle would start all over again. “*Ain’t it great Ma, the wind stopped blowin*” (p. 82). But hold the phone! Those [obsessive whisky thoughts](#) still nagged on with a persistent vengeance.

This phenomenon is often tagged as an “*AA honeymoon*”—I was having a “*relief*,” but not a “*release*.” Someone quipped: “*Survival on the AA fellowship is untreated alcoholism*.” Even after six months being happily sober, I had not yet gone through the Twelve Step process and was unknowingly living a life of “*untreated alcoholism*.” Eventually, those honeymoon periods grew shorter and shorter. My unpleasant emotions returned and the whisky obsession grew stronger and stronger.

Finally, after a Hollywood parade, my untreated alcoholism allowed me to march into a bar and almost order a drink—thank God I didn’t. But, I could easily see that alternating periods of relief from my [emotional problems](#) was not going to keep me sober. Within weeks a new sponsor had me living the AA program of action via the Twelve Steps. A few months later I experienced a release, and my obsession for whisky miraculously disappeared.

I have learned that although the AA fellowship may provide pleasant periods of relief, it is the Twelve Steps of AA in action that provide the necessary release for me to remain happy, joyous and free—and sober!

By Bob S.

Lack of Power

If a mere code of morals or a better philosophy of life were sufficient to overcome alcoholism, many of us would have recovered long ago. But we found that such codes and philosophies did not save us, no matter how much we tried. We could wish to be moral, we could wish to be philosophically comforted, in fact, we could will these things with all our might, but the needed power wasn’t there. Our human resources, as marshaled by the will, were not sufficient; they failed utterly. Lack of power, that was our dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live, and it had to be a Power greater than ourselves. Obviously

Big Book page 44-45

Reckless Romancing

AA's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions describes an emotionally mature alcoholic as one who is *"finally convinced that reckless romancing is not a way of life."* (12&12, p.119)

In fact, the Big Book directly warns us, *"If we are not sorry and our conduct continues to harm others, we are quite sure to drink. We are not theorizing. These are facts out of experience."* (Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Ed. "BB", p.70) The founders knew of what they spoke when making sex one of only three areas suggested in our [4th Step](#) inventory.

Remember, *"the alcoholic is like a tornado roaring ... through the lives of others. Hearts are broken. Sweet relationships are dead. Affections have been uprooted."* (BB, p.82)

And yet, when we enter the rooms, our character defects don't disappear overnight. *"Perhaps we are mixed up with women in a fashion we wouldn't want advertised."* (BB, p. 80-81) Our way *"had thrown us into unworkable relationships with other people... Either we had tried to dominate them" or we had become "overdependent."* (12&12, p.115)

AA recognizes that nearly everyone experiences *"a compelling desire to find a mate... with whom the fullest possible union can be made — spiritual, mental, emotional and physical"* and that *"this mighty urge" is "a creative energy that deeply influences our lives."* (12&12, p.117) *"As we grow spiritually, we find that our old attitudes toward our instincts need to undergo drastic revisions.... Our desires for emotional security... for romance, and for family satisfactions — all these have to be tempered and redirected."* (12&12, p.114)

To do so, our daily [10th Step](#) inventory needs to include the question, *"How, by ignorance, compulsion, and self-will, do we misuse this gift (the "mighty urge") for our own destruction?"* (12&12, p.117) And, if we're going to date within AA, we're told that we *"need to be solid A.A.'s and long enough acquainted to know that our compatibility at spiritual, mental and emotional levels is a fact and not wishful thinking."* We also *"need to be as sure as possible that no deep-lying emotional handicap... will be likely to rise up under later pressures to cripple" us.* (12&12, p.119)

As one who did more than their fair share of reckless romancing, it took me many years of practice and understanding, with slips and trips along the way, until it finally clicked. The first step was admitting that my brand of *"good and plenty" sex*, like alcohol, was causing problems. My 4th Step inventory showed me that this was a direct threat to my sobriety. But it was finally my daily 10th Step inventory where the rubber met the road – *"How by ignorance, compulsion and self-will" did I misuse my sexual drive?*

Keeping a daily eye on my romantic behavior, learning about and honoring boundaries, avoiding *"slippery behavior,"* and talking with those who'd overcome these behaviors healed this compulsion and allowed me to become a better tool for good, a better instrument for my Higher Power.

The amazing and unexpected benefit of surrendering reckless romancing is that I am free of obsessive thoughts. What a new freedom that is! I have many tools at my disposal now, the most effective being the [3rd Step prayer](#) and 12 Step work. Basically, get out of my own way. I let something better, some better idea, some power for good guide the action I take – even if it's just don't touch and don't flirt. I stopped 90% of my acting out with just those two restraints! And I filled the void left behind with 12 Step work – of all kinds, including anonymous acts of kindness.

"Such a radical change in our outlook" takes time, "maybe a lot of time." (12&12, p.92) But the 9th Step Promises do materialize if we work for them. I started chasing love in new and different ways, finding both joy and inner peace. By redirecting that *"mighty urge,"* the inner void was filled with profound love – in a special relationship, for my fellow A.A.'s, my neighbors, and for the world at large. Like my compulsion to drink, my compulsion for reckless romancing evaporated as I worked all the 12 Steps.

By Anonymous

True Humility and an Open Mind

Step Two is the Rallying Point

By Rick R.

When born, most of us come into the world untainted and perfectly innocent. From that time on, we are influenced by everything we experience in life, good and bad. If we are loved and nurtured we may develop a feeling of trust and safety, but if, as it sometimes happens, we get our hand slapped when we pick up something from the coffee table, it may trigger an attitude of defiance and resistance. These two opposites are just examples of the many conflicts we encounter in a lifetime. We are conditioned to think and react in a certain way as the result of the experiences we are exposed to.

Newcomers in *Alcoholics Anonymous*, often find it hard to grasp a concept of "a power greater than ourselves." This is A.A. must face in our search for a we get past all our resistance to the comes much easier to proceed with meant by the word God and what something different to just about with it, and if God alone was the answers come to A.A. for treatment;

Alcoholics Anonymous is here for all regardless of their approach to faith. trying to convert someone into a

simply misguided. The Big book (*Alcoholics Anonymous*) and the 12&12 (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*) have many comments explaining this, but unfortunately this old conditioning, bolstered by the EGO, seems to block some of us from breaking down the resistance on this subject, or some members may just fake it to appear to be going along with the program, but never getting the results. If we denied the possibility of a God of the different religious groups, they could not have A.A. available to them, and if we made it a requirement that we picked one of those beliefs, atheists would be left out and where would Buddhist stand? If a person believes that he does not have a higher power, I might remind him/her that alcohol was more powerful or else why would he need A.A.? With this in mind, I might suggest that he may only need to find a power greater than alcohol to begin with, then, as it says in Step 2 in the 12&12 " To acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of the A.A. program as enthusiastically as I could." As I look back on it now, I realize that that was exactly the way I found my way through this challenge. I find absolutely no conflict in any approach that one discovers on his own, only that he practices the rest of the program with enthusiasm. What it seems to imply is that if we trust the process and, just do the suggestions, you will find a suitable understanding of a power greater than yourself that you can do business with.

I'm still not sure what or who (if you like) I am asking for guidance from but I'm open minded about these things, and I have to let everyone find their own brand of enlightenment, without prejudging anyone else's approach on this matter. I believe that changing my perception was what put me firmly on the road to recovery. The only thing that I have to resist is my EGO, and the way I do that is by living by sound and unselfish principles many of which are discussed in A.A. meetings, and many are assimilated through osmosis as I continue to put 2 and 2 together. It is not that complicated. If I don't get caught up in the debate and just follow the simplest suggestions, it all works out fine.



mous, (A.A.) and even some sea-grasp a concept of "a power probably the biggest hurdle we in happy and meaningful life. Once concept of a Higher Power, it be the rest of the program. What is God can do for us, can mean everyone that is having difficulty swer, why do priests and minis-why not just go to church?

alcoholics that want to get sober Anyone that thinks that we are religion or out of a religion is

The evolution of my Home group

The maturity of the content

By Rick R.

Being on active duty in the Navy when I got sober, it was hard for me to establish a Home group since I was traveling all over the Pacific during the Vietnam War and I spent my first 13 years in A.A. on active duty attending meetings everywhere I could. Prior to getting sober, I spent a year and a half on the ship station at Mare Island and eventually transferred to a ship in Long Beach, Ca. where I attended my first A.A. meeting on October 15th 1969. One year later I was transferred to a ship in Alameda, Ca. and spent 4 1/2 years attending a meeting at the, Five Cities Fellowship in Fremont, Ca. My final tour of duty in the Navy was Recruit Training Command in San Diego where my role involved the training of company commanders or, drill instructors if you like, and that experience is responsible for most of the disciplines I have in my life today. I retired and bought a home just North of San Diego in the small town of Poway, Ca. and in 1983 I was one of a group of 25 members, of the program, that established the Poway Alano Club. I eventually got in the habit

of attending the 7:00 AM meeting Monday through Friday Meeting to be my Home group. To every AA group appeals to certain and that most Alcoholics will feel comfortable. I have cy-different AA groups and each of of my thinking and as I grow, In to meetings with a literature-day through Wednesday meetings flections, the Thursday morning study, and the Friday morning dition Study. We have a core members with varying lengths of



7 days a week, and I con-“Unconditional AA” be clear, I believe that members of the program attend meetings where cled through quite a few them has resolved an area the program, I am drawn based format. The Mon-are based on the Daily Re-meeting is a Big Book meeting is a Step and Tra-group of, so called, old ing with an equal group of sobriety. We go around

the room in order and try to allow everyone a chance to share. When an out of town visitor shows up at a meeting, they usually share about how comfortable they feel, usually based on the individual sharing’s as we go around the room. It is very gratifying to watch a newcomer come into the meeting overwhelmed with typical alcoholic problems and try to explain them to the group and within a month, to see his/her whole outlook on life change to one of the reconstruction and restitution based on the maturity of the content of the groups Input and quoting areas of the big book and the 12 Steps and Traditions rather than their own rationalizations. The group has a pattern of not being judgmental about a person acting or displaying symptoms of the disease of alcoholism. They display degree of understanding and patiently allow the person to assimilate the values expressed in the Program and allow him to develop his own pace of understanding. There is a constant air of ego deflation and an absence of rationalization when the old timers express the values of the program based on compassion and understanding. Our goal is to provide a safe environment where a newcomer does not have to protect his own turf; they can feel safe and abandon the habit of rationalizing their own alcoholic behavior. We are blessed with a handful of, so called, elder statesmen that set a non-threatening tone of patience and understanding that appeals to the newcomers and the occasional visitors and I feel fortunate to be a part of it.

Through Our Own Contributions

“Get a sponsor, get a home group, and get something to do at that home group,” was a continuing mantra at the treatment facility I attended in the early ‘80s. This final item was not hard to find. Most meetings needed to be set up and later cleaned up, coffee made, cookies bought, cups and ashtrays washed (yes, china cups and metal ashtrays). We had greeters at the door. And we appointed an Intergroup rep and a [General Service rep](#) in addition to the usual secretary and treasurer.

Most long timers whom I’ve discussed this with spent years making coffee somewhere. This was all-too-often not very good coffee, but it was ready on time, nonetheless. Having a responsibility got me to my home group when I had a sick headache, a bad cold, or—most importantly—a strong desire to just skip it. My contributions made the meeting better and by my efforts I became an integral part of that group.

The group needed workers, but it also needed money. They passed a basket and nearly everyone tossed in a full dollar. I asked around and found that hereabouts we’d been doing that since about 1975—the thought was *“put in the cost of a beer.”* Around that time AA growth was over 10% per year fueled largely by treatment facility promotions funded by insurance payments. While inflation was also high, AA expenses grew slower due to economies of scale.

We had no club in the Heights area and the Central Office would not list a new group if it was on the same day, time, and format of an existing group within 5 miles. Treasuries were flush and nearly all the crowded groups and their members pledged and paid toward maintaining the Central Office. This has all changed.

We have people at the door but they’re usually smokers and not so good as greeters. AA growth has stagnated due in part to few treatment facility promotions and because [AA’s Public Service Announcements](#) (PSAs) are rarely run since the deregulation of TV stations means they no longer are required to run PSAs. New groups proliferated in part by a local club starting. Inflation is slow but persistent. Still the pseudo-traditional \$1 in the basket lingers on.

Many groups cannot afford to [send donations](#) to the central office or general service and, since they’re not sending money, they’re not putting their *“mouth”* (sending representatives) where their money is. My home group had a somewhat high rental from the church where it met since they felt they needed to keep a custodian there when we met for security and expected us to pay that cost.

The group treasurer complained to the church that we couldn’t meet it; we learned later that a partial cause was they were skimming a large part of the basket themselves. The church asked me if this was true and I explained that we could meet the rent but doing so meant we’d have nothing to give to our support services. This was NOT okay with their board, so the church cut our rent in half.

Many groups get by because their charitable landlords do not charge them the going rate for a building rental. We are part of their mission and so they give us a break. By taking it, we don’t have to get more in the basket. We survive—but are in no way *“self-supporting through our own contributions.”*

Some charities speak of sacrificial giving, a.k.a. *“give till it hurts.”* AA does not want or need this, but many of us would not miss an extra \$1 per meeting and so should be encouraged to *“give until it feels good.”* A friend started getting two-dollar bills at his bank and making a statement by tossing one of those into the basket. I’ve followed suit. I also follow our area’s suggestion to give \$5 at my home group to make up in part for those not yet able or generous enough to contribute anything to them.

By making a full contribution of both time and money to AA, I find that I less often use what my sponsor called *“them preferential pronouns”*—I, me, my—and instead speak *“we admitted”*, *“God grant us”*, *“our program”*, etc. AA saved my life; so, I cannot leave it hungry and begging when I can quite easily do my part to alleviate that through my own contributions.

By Bob M

FINANCES

Jan

2021

Income

Literature/Merchandise	\$2,504
Group Contributions	1,933
AA Birthdays	
Faithful Five	15
Individual/Anonymous	1,053
Total Income	5,504

Expenses

Bank/Credit Card Fees	61
Travel/Licenses/Permits	
Office Supplies	117
Office Improve/Repair	
www Hosting	
Payroll Net	1,711
Payroll Tax	
Postage	37
Printing	
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	743
Insurance	
Rent	500
Sales Tax	156
Telephone/www	202
Utilities	100
Computer Equipment	
Computer Software	154
Computer/Maintain	
Total Expenses	4,895
Net Ordinary Income	610
Other Income	
Other Expenses	
NET OTHER INCOME	
NET INCOME	610

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>JAN</u>	<u>2021</u>
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482.....	20.....	20
12 Steps By Paragraph.....	150.....	150
24 Hour Solution.....	0.....	0
Anchor.....	0.....	0
Aprendiendo A Vivre, 176467.....	0.....	0
Back To Basics.....	0.....	0
Beach Bums 641645.....	0.....	0
Big Book Comes Alive, 710427.....	90.....	90
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101.....	0.....	0
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630.....	26.....	26
Big Book Study, 662395.....	0.....	0
Bonita Awareness, 124788.....	0.....	0
Bonita Banyan, 176463.....	0.....	0
Bonita Beginnings.....	100.....	100
Bonita Friday Night.....	0.....	0
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....	377.....	377
Bonita Men, 654428.....	0.....	0
Bonita Morning.....	0.....	0
Bonita Saturday Night.....	0.....	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	349.....	349
Bonita Springs Women's 169127.....	0.....	0
Bonita Springs Step,134588.....	0.....	0
Bonita Unity.....	0.....	0
Bring Your Own Big Book.....	50.....	50
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.....	0
Early Reflections, 653770.....	0.....	0
Early Riser, 161795.....	0.....	0
East Trail, 150873.....	0.....	0
Easy Does It, 156979.....	0.....	0
FCYPAA.....	0.....	0
Free 2 Be, 670930.....	0.....	0
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.....	0
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.....	50.....	50
Living Sober, 605904.....	0.....	0
Living Sober Isle of Capri.....	0.....	0
Men Of Naples, 634030.....	33.....	33
Men's Big Book.....	0.....	0
Monday Night Men Step 724529.....	0.....	0
Monday Noon Daily Reflections.....	13.....	13
Morning Reflections, 660700.....	0.....	0
Naples Group, 103609.....	0.....	0
Naples Men's, 694322.....	0.....	0
Naples South, 130210.....	0.....	0
Naples Young People, 699130.....	0.....	0
New Dawn, 632504.....	0.....	0
New Women (Thursday noon).....	0.....	0
Newcomers Coming Together, 684199.....	0.....	0
No Compromise, 681260.....	0.....	0
Not A Glum Lot.....	0.....	0
Nueva Vida.....	0.....	0

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>2021</u>
One Day At A Time.....	0.....	0
Our Common Welfare.....	0.....	0
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323.....	0.....	0
Pay It Forward, 704772.....	0.....	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715.....	675.....	675
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.....	0
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079.....	0.....	0
Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959.....	0.....	0
Sunset Serenity, 654981.....	0.....	0
Survivor's, 157268.....	0.....	0
SW 239 BID.....	0.....	0
Swamp Group, 672733.....	0.....	0
Tables Of Naples.....	0.....	0
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.....	0
Unity Step.....	0.....	0
Veranda.....	0.....	0
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923.....	0.....	0
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	0.....	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011.....	0.....	0
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.....	0
ZOOM Noon.....	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.



Came To Believe....

The Big Book infers that a vital spiritual experience is necessary for alcoholics to face and be rid of the obsession to drink. (p. 27) Yet, paradoxically, we are told that belief in God was not necessary to accomplish this miracle—we need only become willing to believe. (p. 46) Indeed, I found that it wasn't necessary to define God before doing the Twelve Steps, but I began to see the result of my willingness to believe several months afterward. I experienced a release from obsession that had nearly thirty years! My belief came before doing the Twelve Steps, but my belief came afterward. The evidence was indisputable! I had experienced a change sufficient to re-lease! I had been in AA for about a year before the release took place (The Big Book uses the word recovery in program language I had had



Twelve Steps, but I of my willingness to afterward. I experienced that deadly mental plagued me for willingness to be the Twelve Steps, afterwards. The evidence—I had been released a “personality cover from alcohol for about a year before place (The Big Book ered), so in AA Program a spiritual awakening (slow) rather than a spiritual experience (sudden) as mentioned in Appendix II. (p. 567)

The Big Book does not say that I must understand God, but it speaks of: “God as we understood Him,” in Steps 3 and 11. This simply means that we each may entertain our different views of a higher power. Although I may not understand God, I can see His results, i.e.: We have over two million sober alcoholics in AA and most all of us claim that God saved them from an alcoholic pit. (Including me!)

Reverend Sam Shoemaker, Bill Wilson’s Oxford Group mentor, stated: “Step two is not theological, it is evidential.” The evidence is around the AA tables!

As I study the Big Book, I realize that certain words are used in a special and technical context not to be found in dictionaries. One of these words is “sanity.” Sanity, in Big Book speak, is when an alcoholic can see and act on the truth in the matter of drink.

Alcoholic insanity is when they cannot. Two examples: Alcoholic insanity: Jim pouring whisky into milk: “plain insanity” (p. 37) Alcoholic Sanity: Fitz Mayo who “couldn’t drink even if he would.” (p. 57) Someone wrote: “The better I understand God, the less I know God.” Came to believe is a decision of the heart, rather than of a conclusion of the mind.”

The Birthday Club

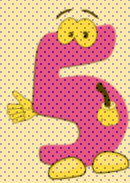
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics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



Ron P.	50 years
Ron L.	42 years
Don M.	40 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:

Chairman:
Jerry E., 776-6767
jerryedleman@gmail.com
Alt. Chair:
Peter C., 784-7725
pete.curtner@yahoo.com
Treasurer:
Maria M., 370-2034
mmetchear@aol.com
Registrar:
Opportunity
Secretary:
Jill M., 309-3879
diannamusse@gmail.com

Service Committees:

Treatment/Accessibilities

Denise L., 249-4514
blackbelt52005@gmail.com
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

Opportunity
Business meeting the second
Wednesday of each month at
7pm, 24 Hour Club

Grapevine/Literature

Peter C., 784-7725
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
jedleman@gmail.com

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

Treatment Commitments

DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER

Every day except
Wednesday
7:00 p.m.
Jon B., 537-5862

NAPLES COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Tim C., 778-5150

WILLOUGH

Sunday, Monday and Thursday
7:30pm
Joe S., 845-554-8721

HAZELDEN

Monday, 7:00pm
Tom H., 777-1430
tomhigh@me.com

BRIDGING THE GAP

239-206-3284

**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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delegate@area15aa.org

Alternate: Cary W.
altdelegate@area15aa.org

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chair@area15aa.org

Treasurer: Wayne H.
PO Box 1311
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treasurer@area15aa.org

Registrar: Donna W.
registrar@area15aa.org

Secretary: Karen V
secretary@area15aa.org

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

Office Volunteers:
Opportunity, Haven H.
Dave K., Eric S.
Ken H., Tona W.
Nikki E., Andria C.
Ivan B., Pat S.
Peggy G., Bonnie, Pete H
...and loyal Substitutes