

# THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup  
1509 Pine Ridge Road, Unit B  
Naples, Florida 34109



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

January 2022

## Why We Were Chosen - Anonymous

God in His wisdom selected this group of men and women to be purveyors of His goodness. In selecting them through whom to bring about this phenomenon He went not to the proud, the mighty, the famous or the brilliant. He went instead to the humble, to the sick, to the unfortunate. He went right to the drunkard, the so-called weakling of the world. Well might He have said the following words to us:

"Unto your weak and feeble hands I have entrusted a power beyond estimate. To you has been given that which has been denied the most learned of your fellows. Not to scientists or statesmen, not to wives or mothers, not even to my priests or ministers have I given this gift of healing other alcoholics which I entrust to you."

"It must be used unselfishly; it carries with it grave responsibility. No day can be too long; no demands upon your time can be too urgent; no case can be too pitiful; no task too hard; no effort too great. It must be used with tolerance for I have restricted its application to no race, no creed, and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect; lack of appreciation will be common; ridicule will be your lot; your motives will be misjudged. You must be prepared for adversity, for what men call adversity is the ladder you must use to ascend the rungs toward spiritual perfection, and remember, in the exercise of this power I shall not exact from you beyond your capabilities."

"You are not selected because of exceptional talents, and be careful always, if success attends your efforts not to ascribe to personal superiority that to which you can lay claim only by virtue of my gift. If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission, this power would have been entrusted to the physician and scientist.

If I had wanted eloquent men, there would have been many anxious for the assignment, for talk is the easiest used of all talents with which I have endowed mankind. If I had wanted scholarly men, the world is filled with better qualified men than you who would be available.

You were selected because you have been the outcasts of the world and your long experience as drunkards has made or should make you humbly alert to the cries of distress that come from the lonely hearts of alcoholics everywhere."

"Keep ever in mind the admission you made on the day of your profession in AA -- namely that you are powerless and that it was only with your willingness to turn your life and will unto MY keeping that relief came to you."

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PREAMBLE:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or Institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. (AA Grapevine, Inc.)



## Alcoholism: A Disease of Perception

### When My Desperation Outweighed My Denial

Rick R. - Miami, Florida

Alcoholism is often referred to as a disease of perception, and oh how I find that statement to be true. Like most Alcoholics, early in my drinking days, I did not have a problem as I was single and had no one to answer to and it was perfectly normal to go from work directly to the bar room and spend the evening pouring alcohol down my throat. It was fun, and I did a lot of foolish things in those days.

As my tolerance for alcohol grew, I developed a pattern of drinking that I could open a bar at 6:00 AM and close it at 2:00 AM and you could not tell I was drinking if you did not smell the alcohol on my breath. I Reached the pinnacle and that only lasted for a while. Next, I developed a pattern of forgetting what happened the night before (Blackout Drinking) and when people started telling me about the things I did last night ... it was not flattering.

Normal drinkers do not have those kinds of experiences. Then came the DUI's, the nights in jail, the wrecked cars, the broken knuckles, marriage, divorced and, I could go on forever. When I was in the throes of this disease I was living by the dictates of my EGO, to bolster my pride and it was telling me that I did not have a problem. The progression of the malady varies in each individual due to environmental issues. Some people drink into their 60s and 70s before they come to Alcoholics Anonymous. Waking each morning to face the hideous four horsemen, Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration, and Despair is not a problem that normal drinkers must face. For me, alcohol seemed to be the solution to the problems and to abandon it would be horrifying. My perception at that time was that if I quit drinking, I would spend the rest of my life waking up in that emotional pit and I did everything in my power to deny my condition.

As the progression wore on, one by one, I was running out of options and the drink could no longer mask the deception of it all and I was backed into the corner of life and now, what can I do? On October 15, 1969, *my desperation out weighted my denial* and I called the telephone operator and asked for the number of Alcoholics Anonymous and she gave me the number of a local A.A. club in a little house about six miles from my apartment and I showed up there to be greeted by three people sitting on a bench in the front yard and within ten minutes of talking to them I could see the *compassion and empathy in their eyes*.

I laid down in the grass and covered my eyes with my forearm and thought to myself "Thank God, this nightmare is over" ... and it was. I have never drunk, nor wanted to drink ever since that moment. I was 28 years old at the time and most of the members of that group were over 40 years old and they referred to me *as the fortunate one*, and I was. From that moment on I have done a 180 degree turn in my thinking and embraced the program of Alcoholics Anonymous in its entirety and it has evolved into a life of peace and serenity that I could not have imagined when I showed up on that lawn in 1969; and right now, as I am trying to explain this miracle, I am wiping tears of joy from my eyes just thinking about it.

**Go Figure.**



## **JANUARY ... The First Month Of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**STEP ONE:** We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.”

**TRADITION ONE:** “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

**CONCEPT ONE:** “The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.”

*1st Step Prayer:* I admit that I am powerless over my addiction. I admit that my life is unmanageable when I try to control it. Help me this day to understand the true meaning of powerlessness. Remove from me all denial of my addiction.

### **TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST**

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

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as “just for the sake of discussion,” plunge into argument
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship



**Step One** was a stumbling block for me. For years it kept me in the A.A. revolving door that some of us must experience before “we get it.” Although I mouthed the words, “I’m an alcoholic.” in



those early meetings, deep within my gut, I just didn’t accept the concept. Comparison played a big part in my denial. I had not gotten a DUI, lost a job over drinking, lost my family or developed health problems. I just drank!. Another ploy was justification. I drank to relax or unwind from all the stress in my life. My life was manageable with a little wine. Others that I met in A.A. seemed to drink all the time and without much justification. Since I came to A.A. without a nudge from anyone, I also rationalized that I probably wasn’t an alcoholic. But I did worry about my drinking which is why I kept coming back periodically. My disease gradually progressed just like the Big Book says. Thank God I was finally able to put aside all the comparison, justification and rationalizing and accept my alcoholism. My life as a member of A.A. just keeps getting better, due to this priceless program. Yes, I’m an alcoholic, and I’m so glad that I finally got it.

Anonymous, Long Beach, CA

**Tradition one** If you have been around Alcoholics Anonymous for a short time, this can appear as a scary proposition. I imagined that my life depended on the people in A.A.? Paleeese! After all, A.A. is NOT the bedrock of



mental health! In actuality, it is the most factual statement one can make about our program. My life depends on those who are new and on those who sober for . I must be a part of. How would a newcomer ever learn what is available unless we show them? If we don’t show the newcomer the A.A. way, who will? We are in the proverbial lifeboat together. This is way better than the life I lived before I came to A.A. I was a lone ranger having to do everything myself, and with an attitude of “you can’t make me - I already know how to do it.” Mine appeared to be a terminal case. However, I had sponsors who were willing to tell me what is so - in other words here is the truth, the heck with your feelings. The Traditions are rock solid because they are woven together. We MUST always be WE.

W.W., Los Angeles



## From AA's Past

Bill W. died on Sunday, January 24, 1971, at 11:30, at the Miami Heart Institute, Miami, Florida, after a long illness. He had been treated for emphysema since 1986. At his death he was 75 years old. After a private funeral service, burial was in East Dorset, VT, where he was born on November 26, 1895. These arrangements followed Bill's wishes. A.A. memorial meetings February 14, 1971, honoring Bill's work as cofounder of Alcoholics Anonymous, author of basic AA books, and chief architect and articulator of the Fellowship's principles. Bill's last public appearance was at the Spiritual Meeting, Miami Beach, which closed the 35th Anniversary International Convention—gone to Florida anticipating virus pneumonia necessitated a short hospitalization, and physicians allowed him only the one token convention appearance. That Sunday morning, the tall, slender and somewhat weary white-haired man was wearing a bright orange-colored jacket as a salute to the AA's of his host state. As he pulled himself to his feet, a throng of 11,000 men, women, and children jumped to their feet applauding and cheering. Many wept



groups around the world held a convention, July 5, 1970, in Miami Beach, Florida, which closed the 35th Anniversary International Convention—the 5th in AA's history. Bill had been speaking a full speaking schedule, but his illness necessitated a short hospitalization, and physicians allowed him only the one token convention appearance. That Sunday morning, the tall, slender and somewhat weary white-haired man was wearing a bright orange-colored jacket as a salute to the AA's of his host state. As he pulled himself to his feet, a throng of 11,000 men, women, and children jumped to their feet applauding and cheering. Many wept

(from Box 459, Vol 16, No 2 Memorial Issue, January, 1971) Source: Bill C., Orchard Park Group, New Frontiers, Jan 2016



If we are planning to stop drinking, there must be no reservation of any kind, nor any lurking notion that someday we will be immune to alcohol.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 3

**ATTENTION PLEASE:**  
**New Mailing Address**  
**GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE**  
 P.O. Box 2407  
 James A Farley Station  
 New York, N.Y. 10116



## I was an A.A. Teenager!

Donald W. – Fort Myers, Florida

No, not that I first entered the rooms in my teenage years, but from the perspective of my attitude, how I was behaving in recovery. I dare say, most parents who have lived through those often harrowing years of raising a child who only a few short years ago seemed so innocent, so agreeable, so pure now look at the child and exclaim, “what happened?”. The short answer? They became a teenager who is perhaps unwilling to accept direction, sometimes argumentative, self-reliant, often defiant, with “a whole lot of attitude”. The solution? Usually, the best counsel is, “It is going to be a bumpy ride, hang on tight, it will be over in a few years!”.

But what about that AA teenager? It is not a temporal period that will necessarily fade away after a time and that is what makes this predicament so perilous to our sobriety. How does that happen? The Big Book has warned us of the danger of “resting on our laurels” and in my case, that was certainly true but my apathy was combined with a lack of understanding of what it takes for an alcoholic to truly recover from alcoholism

It would be nice if it would come to end after a temporal period but that is not what happens. Many people do not outgrow the AA teenager phase and get progressively worse. We grow bored, indifferent, lose interest, and then lapse into the typical teenager perspective of “I got it, thanks for the information but I will take it from here, I know what I am doing!”. I can relate. I came to AA desperate, begging for help, direction, “just tell me what to do and I will do it” I cried! Go to meetings, get a sponsor, and a homegroup I was told. But then, something began to happen. Time. Weeks of sobriety turned into months. I was a meeting-makers-make-it monster! My sponsor encouraged me to begin working on my 4<sup>th</sup> Step. It became apparent to me that I knew what was best for me, I was “fine”, not a teenager as of yet but perhaps an insubordinate adolescent!

By the time I picked up my one-year chip, I finally succumbed to my friend's prodding and did the work necessary to complete the initial process – Steps 4-9. My objective in doing the work was to “get it over with” and get everyone off my back. However, my work was honest, it was thorough and as a result, I began to experience that spiritual awakening my friends promised and I had heard about in meetings. The freedom from alcohol that I had experienced in my first year had led to many positive changes in my life but now I began to see that I was a different person. As the book promised, my whole attitude and outlook upon life had now changed. I put my Big Book back up on the shelf where it would sit for the next five years. I was now an AA teenager.

Over the next few years, my external world changed dramatically. I got a great new job, I acquired a whole lot of “stuff”. As Bill Wilson put it, “For the next few years fortune threw money and applause my way. I had arrived”. Gradually, I began to think that my life was unsatisfactory, I had flatlined in sobriety. Perhaps I would just disappear and return to drinking. I was bored with AA, I was bored with my sobriety. When people quoted from the Big Book, I rolled my eyes. When my friends suggested that I might want to revisit some of the ideas I had around working the AA program, my mind snapped shut.

[Continued page 7.](#)



Continued from page 6.

## **I Was An AA Teenager! - Donald W.**

I was defiant, self-sufficient, self-reliant, and yes, with a whole lot of attitude. “How dare you question me? I haven’t had a drink in over 5 years!”. Luckily for me, once again, my desperation opened a crack in my arrogance. I became willing to let go of some not-too-old ideas I had acquired after putting down my last drink.

It was now 2002 and the internet was exploding with content, particularly around recovery speaker recordings like Joe and Charlie and many other individual speakers. They were talking about this commitment to rediscovering the message put forth by the early AA guys that were laid out in the book. They all agreed that the message that you were hearing in the rooms of contemporary AA was often very different than what was in the book. They talked about how AA had changed over the years, the difference between the early AA emphasis on the recovery principles of the 12 steps, and how contemporary AA was more reliant on the fellowship – a concept that was unthinkable in the early days.

But what attracted me to this message was that all of these guys had a similar experience to mine – they had been around AA for a while, they had flatlined in sobriety and now they discovered a new way of life, a design for living that would grant them peace and serenity, freedom from resentments, freedom from fear and worry, a sense of purpose in life that they never had when they were drinking or sober. But to get it, you had to follow directions, precisely and exactly how they were laid out in the BB. Joe and Charlie used the metaphor about baking a cake - that made perfect sense to me. I hooked up with some people who understood the directions in the Big Book and I began to see how little I knew, how wrong I had been. Because I did not know what was in the book I also did not know *what was not in the book*. I had adopted many “suggestions” that I heard in discussion meetings that had nothing to do with the AA message that was laid out in the book, and even worse, suggestions that contradicted the basic principles that were in the book – “Just don’t drink!”.

I often hear people say that there are many roads up the mountain of recovery and if you remain steadfast you will find your way too. I hope that is true. But for me, after my dalliance in those teenage years, I finally found the path laid out by the early AA pioneers that is found in the Big Book was the best path for me – Trust God, Clean House, and Help Others. I was fortunate. Not everyone gets a second chance at a second chance — but I have been blessed and forever grateful. Those directions are simple: prayer and quiet time every morning, inventory throughout the day when I am upset or disturbed about something, helping others both inside and outside of the rooms, and a review of my day when I retire at night.

**I finally grew up, I am no longer an AA teenager!**

“I am responsible for reporting for duty and making the effort to overcome adversity ... and in so doing ... to overcome myself.”

“Responsibility Is the Name of the Game,” Van Nuys, California, November 1966, AA Grapevine.



## AA Volunteer Opportunities



*Naples Area  
Intergroup*

**Mornings: 9:00 to 12:30**

**Afternoon: 12:30 to 4:00**

**(One morning or afternoon each week.)**

**and, Telephone Helpline**

**After-hours, various days.**

**1-year continuous sobriety.**

**For information: 239/262-6535**



## Gifts of the Program

Courage *not* Fear

Faith *not* Despair

Hope *not* Desperation

Peace Of Mind *not* Confusion

Self-Respect *not* Self-Contempt

Real Friendships *not* Loneliness

Self-Confidence *not* Helpfulness

Clean Conscience *not* Guilt

Respect *not* Contempt

Direction *not* Purposeless

Love and Understanding *not* Doubts

Freedom *not* Bondage



### “Blue People” Graphic

A gathering of folks, silhouetted in blue. A gathering of people, all sorts of people, that look just like us.

This graphic image is affectionately known as the “Blue People.” Originated in January, 2006, the simple graphic has come to be regarded as a heart-warming representation of the inclusiveness of Alcoholics Anonymous, a powerful and much-adored depiction of our membership. A graphic image that has also come to be synonymous with G.S.O.’s A.A. website, aa.org.

The “blue people” graphic is a copyrighted design and trademark of A.A.W.S., Inc., with all rights reserved for use exclusively by the A.A.W.S. Board, AA Grapevine Board, the General Service Board of U.S./Canada, and the General Service Office of U.S./Canada.

A.A. World Service, Inc., Board of Directors, June 17, 2016

**Calling all AA**

**Authors !!!**

**Please submit  
an article to**

**The COURIER !!!**

**Email article to:**

**naplesintergroup@yahoo.com**



## Your Groups’

**Activities**

**Can Be Here**

**Next Month.**

**To Highlight**

**Your Group,**

**Please Call Us:**

**Intergroup Office**

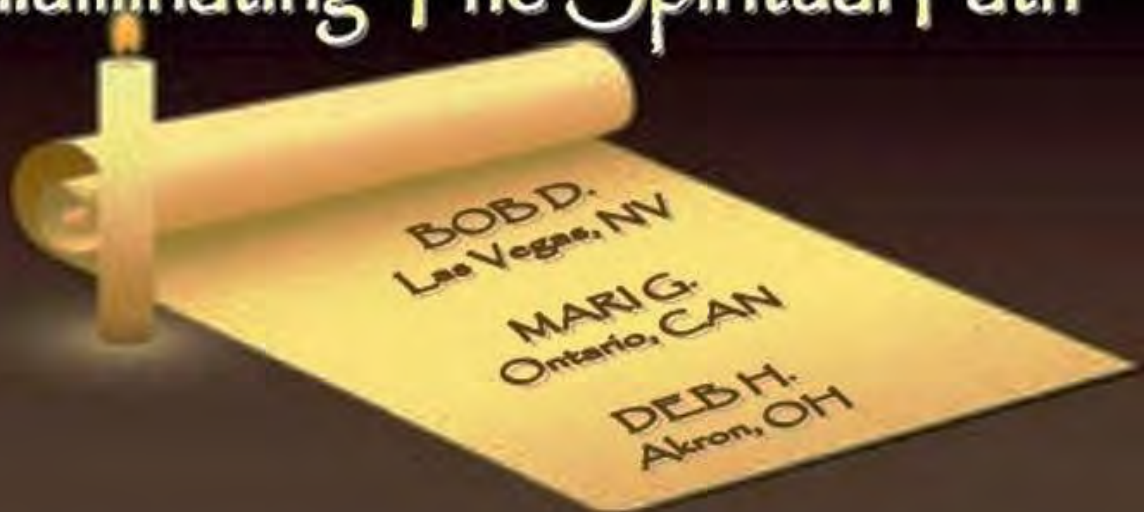
**239/262-6535**



# Pockets of Enthusiasm!

## February 4-6, 2022

# Illuminating The Spiritual Path



### HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## The Westshore Grand Hotel

4860 W. Kennedy Boulevard  
Tampa, Florida 33609

**(813) 286-4400**

\$116 Per Night Single or Double Occupancy  
(Free Parking and Free Wi-Fi!)

**MENTION: Pockets of Enthusiasm!**

For more information visit [www.serenityclubswfl.org/](http://www.serenityclubswfl.org/)

Reservations must be made before 1/31/2021, to receive this rate.  
Afterwards, reservations accepted on a space available basis.

If you need additional information, or have special needs, please call Jerry at 239-776-6767, email [jerryeddeleman@gmail.com](mailto:jerryeddeleman@gmail.com), or write: *Pockets of Enthusiasm*, 5625 Cedar Tree Lane, Naples, FL 34116

Your Registration Includes:

**Access To All Meetings And Workshops!**

POCKETS OF ENTHUSIASM REGISTRATION  
(Register online at [www.serenityclubswfl.org](http://www.serenityclubswfl.org))  
\$44.00 Per Person

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee (Required)	\$44.00
Saturday Night Banquet (Optional)	\$43.00

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable To: The Serenity Club  
 and Mail To: 12435 Collier Blvd., Ste. 107  
 Naples, FL 34116

This is a fundraiser. All sales are final. NO REFUNDS. Cancelled/unclaimed registrations will become scholarships.



# FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA ( FCYPAA )

## SW239 BID FOR FCYPAA 101

### WHO ARE WE & WHAT DO WE DO

#### WHAT WE DO

SW239 IS A GROUP OF MEMBERS OF AA WHO ARE DEDICATED TO BRINGING THE FCYPAA CONFERENCE TO THE SWFL AREA. WE BRING AA MEETINGS INTO DETOX FACILITIES AND TREATMENT CENTERS TO INSPIRE HOPE AND SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF OUR BID'S MISSION. WE THROW EVENTS IN OUR AREA TO FUNDRAISE AND INTRODUCE NEWLY SOBER PEOPLE TO MEMBERS WITH LONG TERM SOBRIETY.



#### WHO WE ARE

THE SW239 BID FOR FCYPAA IS COMPRISED OF SOBER MEMBERS OF AA WHO ARE YOUNG OR YOUNG AT HEART.

#### WHERE AND WHEN DO WE MEET

OUR BID MEETS EVERY OTHER THURSDAY AT 7:00PM AT SAINT MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN BONITA SPRINGS. CLOSER TO THE TIME OF THE CONFERENCE IN LATE JUNE WE WILL BEGIN MEETING WEEKLY.



#### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

STEP 1: SHOW UP!!! WE HAVE TONS OF SERVICE POSITIONS AVAILABLE. WE PUT A BOOK TOGETHER TO PRESENT TO AN ADVISORY COUNCIL WE PUT ON A SKIT THAT WE PERFORM FOR THE COUNCIL AND OTHER BIDS. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP EVERYWHERE!!

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.SW239BID.COM](http://WWW.SW239BID.COM)

CONTACT US AT [SW239BID@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SW239BID@GMAIL.COM)

# The 65<sup>th</sup> Florida State Convention



## “Oceans of Devotion”

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Ft. Lauderdale’s Beautiful  
Harbor Beach Marriott Resort & Spa**

### **Volunteers Needed!**

**Make a difference - Get involved - Be of Service**

**Below are just some of the committees YOU can join to help us make this convention a huge success. Come and join the fun!!**

- |                |             |           |             |                 |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| REGISTRATION   | GREETERS    | SECURITY  | DECORATIONS | ENTERTAINMENT   |
| HOSPITALITY    | MERCHANDISE | PROGRAM   | READY SQUAD | ACCESSIBILITIES |
| TRANSPORTATION | LGBT        | GRAPEVINE | GRAPHICS    | COFFEE          |
| GOLF           | ARCHIVES    | AL-ANON   | BANQUET     | CORNHOLE        |

Use the Link Below to Fill Out a Volunteer Sign-Up Form or email [volunteer2022FSC@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer2022FSC@gmail.com)

**CLICK HERE** → [Link for Volunteer sheet](#)

**Planning Meetings will be in person at:  
The Center for Spiritual Living  
4849 North Dixie Hwy, Oakland Park, FL 33334**

**Mask required if not vaccinated (facility rules)**

Hybrid will be offered if you cannot come in person at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

Meeting ID: 882 8429 1768 ~~~~~ Passcode: FSC2022

**Planning Meeting Dates are all on a Saturday at 9:00am as follows:**

- |                              |                    |                |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| <i>November 20</i>           | <i>February 19</i> | <i>May 21</i>  |
| <i>December – No meeting</i> | <i>March 19</i>    | <i>June 18</i> |
| <i>January 22</i>            | <i>April 16</i>    | <i>July 16</i> |

For more information, contact Convention Chair Karen V.  
(954) 554-0346 or [Chair2022fsc@gmail.com](mailto:Chair2022fsc@gmail.com)





## Step One: Powerless, Piecemeal

When I came to AA, I knew I had a problem with booze, but I was reluctant to admit I was an alcoholic. To me, an alky was a stereotype: a white man over fifty wearing a smelly old trench coat, lying in a bus shelter, and holding a bottle of cheap wine in a paper bag.

I spent my thirty-eighth birthday in a detox. After the twenty-eight-day treatment program, I attended one-hundred-forty meetings in ninety days because I knew my way of living didn't work. My best attempts at controlling my drinking and my best efforts at managing my life all drove me to my bottom. So, I took Step One piecemeal: *We ...*

I listened to other people share their experience with booze. My head nodded up and down like a bobblehead doll. Although my circumstances were different--I never went to jail (I never got caught)--I could relate to their feelings and their thinking. These people were like me in every respect except one: they were staying sober.

*... admitted ...*

These AAs reminded me that admitting something was voicing the willingness to accept it. That worked for me. In the beginning, I was unsure and leery about acceptance. But admitting my problem among people who were like me was something I could do.

*... we were powerless over alcohol ...*

I attended more than a hundred meetings and listened to chapter five, "How It Works," in each one. I got a Big Book and finally realized that I needed to read "The Doctor's Opinion," too.

In that section, I found simple text that described my illness. I knew I was messed up in my head, but in "The Doctor's Opinion" I learned how my body reacts to alcohol. Here, something new really opened my eyes. I knew alcohol didn't affect my nonalcoholic friends or my ex-wives like it affected me. They got sleepy, dopey, and often queasy if they had one drink over their limit.

I didn't have a limit. When I drank, a switch flipped on inside me and I felt elated, alert, outgoing, powerful, and beautiful. Magically, I became a different person--the person I was too shy and scared to become without booze.

I always wanted to be someone other than myself. I lived with low self-worth. As a teenager, I discovered that booze took my feeling of smallness away. My brain had found a simple solution to a difficult problem, and it didn't look for another one. When I felt small, I drank. When I drank, I entered a zone of big. Inside that zone, I had to have more alcohol.

This was a direct result of my body reacting to alcohol. The allergy and the unique phenomenon of craving were things I knew had happened to me.

For over twenty years, I knew I was mentally weak when alcohol was involved. I was obsessive. I depended on alcohol to drown my unwanted feelings and fears. But on that day in my early recovery, I discovered that what made me an alcoholic was my body, not my mind.

This was very important. It was no longer a matter of will. It was a matter of understanding that my body would always react the same way to booze. It helped me to see that I was not the disease, but that I had a disease--forever. No matter how much I grew through the Twelve Steps, my body would always react the same way to alcohol.

*... that our lives had become unmanageable ...*

"No problems with that part," many of us say when we come into AA. But the phrase means more than throwing our hands in the air and declaring life a chaotic mess.

It means that my disease is progressive. If I am truly powerless over alcohol and there is no earthly power that can relieve me of my obsession to drink, then I need a power greater than human power.

Declaring our lives unmanageable places one foot forward, thereby entering Step Two. In doing so, we no longer have one foot remaining in the problem. We move into the solution.

Eric S., Ottawa, Ontario, January, 2007  
With permission AA Grapevine.

**FINANCES****DEC****2021****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	\$34,933	\$37,776
Group Contributions	2,324	25,250
AA Birthdays	0	540
Faithful Five	15	285
Individual/Anonymous	734	4,063
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,991</b>	<b>6,7914</b>

**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees	101	804
Travel/Licenses/Permits	150	236
Office Supplies	403	2,746
Office Improve/Repair		433
www Hosting		145
Payroll	1,958	22,264
Payroll Tax		4,455
Postage	0	71
Printing		
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	1,569	17,907
Insurance		568
Rent	500	6,000
Sales Tax	265	2,307
Telephone/www	204	3,000
Utilities	100	1,200
Computer Equipment		
Computer Software	13	1,076
Computer/Maintain		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,263</b>	<b>63,067</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>4,846</b>
Gratitude Dinner		4,110
Other Expenses		3,383
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>		<b>727</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,728</b>	<b>\$5,573</b>

**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%)

**District 20**

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

**General Service Office**

James A. Farley Station  
P. O. Box 2407  
New York, N. Y. 10116  
(New Address) (30%)

**Area 15**

Don H.  
P.O. Box 311  
Safety Harbor, FL 34695  
(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>Dec</u>	<u>2021</u>
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482.....	0.....	73
12 Steps By Paragraph.....	0.....	150
24 Hour Solution.....	0.....	0
<b>After and Before.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>50</b>
Anchor.....	0.....	0
Aprendiendo A Vivre, 176467.....	0.....	0
Back To Basics.....	0.....	0
Beach Bums 641645.....	0.....	250
Big Book Comes Alive.....	0.....	391
<b>Big Book Step Study.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>24</b>
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101.....	0.....	169
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630.....	0.....	165
Big Book Study, 662395.....	0.....	0
Bonita Awareness, 124788.....	0.....	0
Bonita Banyan, 176463.....	0.....	269
Bonita Beginnings.....	0.....	100
Bonita Friday Night.....	0.....	180
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....	0.....	1,372
Bonita Men, 654428.....	0.....	0
Bonita Morning.....	0.....	722
Bonita Saturday Night.....	0.....	0
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	0.....	274
<b>Bonita Springs Women's 169127.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>810</b>
Bonita Springs Step,134588.....	0.....	37
Bonita Unity.....	100.....	148
Bring Your Own Big Book.....	0.....	150
Brown Bag, 163924.....	0.....	1,907
Cake Meeting, 701813.....	0.....	50
Came to Believe, 615490.....	0.....	0
Candlelight, 606877.....	0.....	0
Comes Of Age.....	0.....	0
<b>Common Solutions, 179613.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>2,103</b>
<b>Daily Reflections ZOOM.....</b>	<b>150.....</b>	<b>1,465</b>
Early Reflections, 653770.....	0.....	0
Early Riser, 161795.....	0.....	1,843
East Trail, 150873.....	0.....	0
<b>Easy Does It, 156979.....</b>	<b>1,000.....</b>	<b>1,000</b>
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.....	60
Jaywalkers, 634271.....	49.....	49
Keep It Positive, 650541.....	0.....	0
Keep It Simple, 651598.....	0.....	0
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950.....	0.....	480
<b>Ladies Noon.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>27</b>
Living Sober, 605904.....	0.....	0
<b>Living Sober Isle of Capri.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Men Of Naples, 634030.....</b>	<b>29.....</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Men's Big Book.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Monday Night Men Step 724529.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
Monday Noon Big Book.....	0.....	31
Monday Noon Daily Reflections.....	5.....	63
Morning Reflections, 660700.....	0.....	0
Naples Group, 103609.....	0.....	0
Naples Men's, 694322.....	0.....	0
Naples South, 130210.....	0.....	230
Naples Young People, 699130.....	0.....	0
New Dawn, 632504.....	0.....	596

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>2021</u>
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
Old Timers, 698956.....	0.....	0
One Day At A Time.....	0.....	102
Our Common Welfare.....	0.....	0
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323.....	0.....	0
Pay It Forward, 704772.....	0.....	1200
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715.....	0.....	3,060
<b>Saturday Morning Girlfriends 678117.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Saturday Night Live.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Spiritual Solutions, 720796.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Start Where You Are.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Step By Step.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Step Into Life.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079.....	0.....	55
Sunlight Of the Spirit, 647959.....	0.....	126
Sunset Serenity, 654981.....	0.....	100
<b>Survivor's, 157268.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>0</b>
SW 239 BID.....	0.....	0
Swamp Group, 672733.....	0.....	0
Tables Of Naples.....	0.....	200
The Solution Big Book Study Group 632503.....	0.....	0
Third Tradition,143298.....	160.....	160
Three Legacies, 679400.....	0.....	0
Thursday New Women.....	0.....	0
Unity Monday Noon Step.....	0.....	0
Unity Step.....	0.....	0
Veranda.....	7.....	224
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923.....	0.....	0
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	0.....	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011.....	0.....	63
Wednesday Step St. Johns.....	0.....	350
Where Are We.....	0.....	100
Women's Spirit.....	0.....	0
<b>Women's Step,159957.....</b>	<b>0.....</b>	<b>350</b>
YANA, 270553.....	0.....	0

**AA Groups/Meetings listed here are those which are either registered as a Group at the AA General Service Office in New York, or, have contributed financially to the Naples Area Intergroup.**



## The Birthday Club

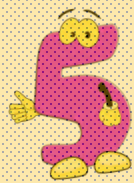
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics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



Ron P.	50 years
Ron L.	42 years
Don M.	41 years
Jim B.	39 years
Dennis F.	35 years
Rad W.	35 years
Jackie T. F.	36 years
Judy W.	34 years
Steve K.	28 years
Peter F.	25 years
Eileen D.	22 years
Bill S.	19 years
Mary B.	18 years
Laura T. F.	4 years
Bree F.	3 years



## Faithful Fivers Needed



### 2021 Faithful Fiver Club

***Bill S., James B., Jeanette H., Jim B., Jim H., Judy W.,  
Kathryn Mc., Ken H., Theresa R., Ron L., 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 for a one time Credit Card charge.

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

Your membership directly supports 12-Step work in District 20 and the 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  
jerryeddleman@gmail.com

**Alt. Chair:**

Peter C., 784-7725  
pete.curtner@yahoo.com

**Registrar:**

Michele B., 465-6047  
mousekatear@gmail.com

**Secretary:**

Shy A., 595-8893  
shyadams95@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Maria M., 370-2034  
mmetchear@aol.com

**Service Committees:****Archives**

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

**Current Practices**

Jerry E., 776-6767  
jerryeddleman@gmail.com

**Grapevine/Literature**

Peter C., 784-7725  
Business meeting the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., 24 Hour Club

**Institutions**

Joe S. 845/554-8721  
joescaliala@icloud.com  
1st Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., 24 Hour Club

**Public Information/CPC**

Nanette D., 572-4214  
Business meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., 24 Hour Club

**Technology**

Dianna M., 248-6565

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:**

Fourth Thursday of the Month, 7:00 pm  
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.  
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**

Joe S.  
239-206-3284

**Area 15; Panel 69**

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

Delegate: Tom W.  
delegate@area15aa.org

Alternate: Cary W.  
altdelegate@area15aa.org

Chair: Lisa D.  
chair@area15aa.org

Treasurer: Wayne H.  
PO Box 131  
Safety Harbor, FL  
34695  
treasurer@area15aa.org

Registrar: Donna W.  
registrar@area15aa.org

Secretary: Karen V.  
secretary@area15aa.org

**Naples Area Intergroup****Trusted Servants****Chair:**

John F., 248-0596  
accabinets123@gmail.com

**Vice Chair:**

Robert C., 784-8514  
bcrowe616@aol.com

**Secretary:**

Pam G., 821-6511  
Pam.goldsmith11@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**

Spence G., 207-7534  
spenceg123@gmail.com

**Members at Large:**

Kathy Mc., 776-9643  
katmccadam@yahoo.com  
Tim A., 571-5440  
timallencmb@gmail.com  
**Service Opportunity**

**Office Manager:**

Ken Helton  
1509-2 Pine Ridge Road  
Naples, Florida 34109-2198  
naplesintergroup@yahoo.com  
Phone: 239-262-6535  
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**

Andrea C., Bill C., Bill S., Bonnie B., Carrie W., Fay B., Lauren F., Nikki E., Raz K., Pat S., Peggy G., Pete H., Sue S., ...and loyal substitutes.

**Service Opportunity**