

THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup
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Naples, Florida 34109



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May 2022

The A.A. Group... WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

Words from Bill W.

"The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance."

Does your Group have a G.S.R

By choosing its most qualified man or woman as G.S.R., a Group helps secure its own future-and the future of A.A. as a whole. The G.S.R. links your Home Group with the whole of A.A. Please see A.A. Pamphlet P-19, G.S.R. General Service Representative

Is your meeting "Open" or "Closed?"

The purpose of all A.A. group meetings, as the Preamble states, is for A.A. members to "share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism." Toward this end, A.A. groups have both open and closed meetings.

Closed meetings: are for A.A. members only, or for those who have a drinking problem and "have a desire to stop drinking."

Open meetings: are available to anyone interested in Alcoholic Anonymous' program of recovery from alcoholism.

Non alcoholics may attend open meetings as observers.

At both types of meetings, the A.A. chairperson may request that participants confine their discussion to matters pertaining to recovery from alcoholism. Whether Open or Closed, A.A. group meetings are conducted by A.A. members who determine the format of their meetings. Please see A.A. Pamphlet P-16, "The A.A. Group", page 11.

Is yours "a meeting" or "a Group"?

A.A. Groups are defined by the long form of our Third Tradition. However, some A.A. members hold A.A. meetings that differ from the common understanding of a Group. These members gather at a set time and place for a meeting for convenience or some special situation. The main difference between meetings and Groups is that A.A. Groups continue to exist outside the prescribed meeting hour, ready to provide Twelfth Step help when needed. Also, A.A. Groups are registered with General Service Office in New York as well as their local Intergroup Office and their District and Area.

Continued on page 2.

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.)



The A.A. Group ... *WHERE IT ALL BEGINS*

Words from Bill W.

Continued from page 1.

Does your group practice "Spirit of Rotation?"

Traditionally, rotation of group officers ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A. are passed around for all to share. To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. *Please see A.A. Pamphlet P-16, "The A.A. Group", page 26.*

Does your group utilize "An Informed Group Conscience?"

The group conscience is the collective conscience of the group membership and thus represents substantial unanimity on an issue before definitive action is taken. This is achieved by the group members through the sharing of full information, individual points of view, and the practice of A.A. principles. To be fully informed requires a willingness to listen to minority opinions with an open mind. *Please see A.A. Pamphlet P-16, "The A.A. Group", page 26-27.*

Does your group periodically take a "Group Inventory?"

Group inventory meetings are held to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose to help alcoholics recover through A.A.'s suggested Twelve Steps of recovery. Some groups take inventory by examining our Twelve Traditions, one at a time, to determine how well they are living up to these principles. *Please see A.A. Pamphlet P16, "The A.A. Group", page 27-28.*

May ... The Fifth Month of Alcoholics Anonymous

STEP FIVE: *"Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."*

TRADITION FIVE: *"Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."*

CONCEPT FIVE: *"Throughout our World Service Structure, a traditional "right of appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered."*

5TH Step Prayer: *"My inventory has shown me who I am, Yet I ask for Your help in admitting my wrongs to another person and to You. Assure me, and be with me, in this Step, For without this Step I cannot progress in my recovery. With Your help, I can do this, and I do it."*

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

Step Five: A Clean Slate

Those Tormenting Ghosts of Yesterday

Rick R. – Miami, Florida

We were all born with a clean slate. From the first day of our lives, we started to experience different emotions and those feelings had to do with the way we evolved into who we are today.

Instinctively we responded to the different Threats and Comforts, of life, and these were the things that established our mental Strengths and Weaknesses. I believe, our problems can be traced back to the conditioning we experienced as we formed our Mental and Spiritual makeup. The perception we have of ourselves may be likened to a chalkboard containing every experience of our lives. If we can look at it and be satisfied that we had a good track-record, we would be comfortable with it and lead a normal life. If, however, we find ourselves on the negative side of the ledger in our formative years, we may develop abnormal feelings of guilt and shame, that triggers the beginning of the compulsion to drink excessively.

In the beginning we get a temporary relief that tells us that we are fine, but it only lasts until we wake up the next morning and find ourselves in an even deeper quandary. We reach for the bottle, and again it gives us that temporary euphoria, and we repeat this process over and over until, something tragic in our lives drives us to Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) where we are encouraged to go through a process that can restore us to a more normal life. Steps One through Four are about surrender, acceptance, and discovery.

STEP FIVE is about disclosure and for me, it was the gateway to how I was to live the rest of my life. After two attempts at Step Four, I was faced with the decision as to whether my future was going to be honest and meaningful, or just a meaningless facade. Fortunately, for me, I took a leap of faith and disclosed all those, so called, *tormenting ghosts of yesterday* (12&12, pg.55). Looking back on it now, I realize that the decision to do this was the hinge pin for my thoroughness, with the rest of the steps. Had I not “Cleaned the Slate” at that time, I just do not see how I could have followed the spirit of truth and honesty, with myself and others that would have resulted in the peace of mind that I enjoy today.

My inventory had to deal with bad habits and deeds which had to be changed by the process suggested in steps six and seven. That was the easy part of STEP FIVE. However, *those tormenting ghosts of yesterday* were another story. These were not habits, but deeds that I had done as an adolescent kid that seemed unforgivable. *No one should ever know; I would take them to the grave with me.* Mustering the strength to take that risk may have been the most crucial step forward I have ever made.

My brain had been lying to me, after all; how bad could a thirteen-year-old kid be? That one decision is what I credit with giving me my life back and if I had not done it, I do not see how I could have given a good effort to the rest of the steps. I often hear members of the program that seem to resist looking deeper into their regrets and seem to build a wall of reasons why they do not need to, and I wonder if they might be caught up in the same dilemma that I was in when I took my FIFTH STEP. I wish I could reassure them that it is not worth the mental torment that it puts us through and that it may be wise to revisit that step and clean the slate. We cannot live alone with them; we must talk to someone about them. (Even A.A. old-timers, sober for years, often pay dearly for skimping this step (12&12, pg. 56). If, you are that person, I encourage you to try to garner the strength to take that risk, and clean the slate.

“After all, we only live once. Let us not waste the opportunity to live a peaceful and contented life. “

“My home group's primary purpose is to carry the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Some of those have much sobriety, because the alcoholic who still suffers is not necessarily a newcomer. However, when newcomers do show up at our home group we try to focus our discussion on what's in the Big Book and how it can help them if they are willing to follow some simple suggestions.”

“The Cement That Binds Us,” Paso Robles, California, May 1998, 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

Keys, Title & a Hug

John M., Burlington, Vermont, May 2021

The shiny, red sports car had to go back. I was unemployed, broke and could not make the payments. My new sponsor suggested I return it to the car dealer, so I did. It was the right thing to do, but also marked a low point in my sobriety.

When I came to AA, I had a nice apartment, a car, clothes and a good job. By my sixth month of sobriety, I was down to no job, no car, no apartment, no money. I was reduced to asking for rides to my meetings.

On my first day of sobriety, I made a big decision. I would throw myself into AA and not look back. I attended two or three meetings every day. I heard the AAs say that you don't take a drink no matter what. In order to have the strength to do that, we needed to come to meetings.

I thought that was the program. In hindsight, I could have possibly done better had I listened to a broader range of experience, strength and hope that was being shared in those meetings I attended. Instead, I spent a lot of time looking for the woman of my dreams, changing jobs, borrowing money, losing jobs and finally asking around if anyone was hiring. I could have been the poster boy for self-will run riot.

At six months, I found myself sober, broke, homeless and on foot. Worse, the mental obsession for alcohol had returned. I was getting scared. Now what? I wondered.

Luckily, things change quickly in AA once we take action. My new sponsor helped me start my Steps and I began studying the Big Book after meetings and learning a lot about myself and my alcoholism.

One of the first results that came out of doing my Step work was that my mental obsession with alcohol began to disappear. I had been frightened because my sobriety had been hanging by a thread and I was not yet confident that the Steps would change this. But my sponsor reassured me that a Higher Power, which I didn't even believe in at that time, would remove the mental obsession, regardless of whether I was a believer or not. After just a few weeks of work, the obsession was gone.

I kept moving forward and was reassured that the Second Step merely asks if I have at least a willingness to believe. Yes, I did have a willingness. Being a non-believer did not prevent me from completing Step Two. I went on to recite the Third Step Prayer and then the Seventh Step Prayer in earnest, though in my heart I was pretty sure that no one was listening.

I asked my sponsor what my spiritual awakening would be. He said that a spiritual awakening would be the end result of this course of action. Once I got to the Twelfth Step, I could take a moment and look at myself and my life and I would see my spiritual growth.

That day came about a year later. I was in my little apartment and for a quiet moment I took a look around. What I saw surprised me. In the past I had rented bigger places with nicer furniture, but this one was comfortable, and I liked it. On my desk my bills were all up to date and the financial amends I was making were too. I had found employment and my boss was satisfied with me. My landlady, who lived next door, was getting her rent on time and I had plans to stay put for a while. A car was parked at the curb; it was mine and it was paid for. It had insurance, good tires and gas in the tank. It was not a sports car. It was green and beat-up rather than shiny and red, but it got me to my AA meetings and Twelfth Step calls and to work, and I was so grateful that it came my way.

My sponsor had heard about the car, which was for sale in Los Angeles. It was being sold by a manager of a women's halfway house. It was an older Chevy and they wanted \$200 for it. He asked whether I had the money and whether I was interested. I answered yes on both counts. He drove me to Los Angeles, and I was prepared to bargain. I asked for the house manager and she brought me into her office and sat me down.

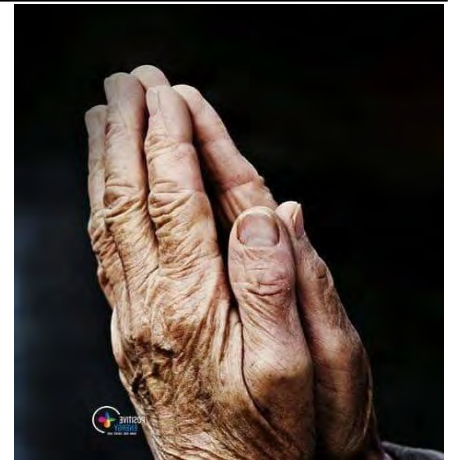
The nice lady had some questions for me. What Step was I on? Who was my sponsor? Who was my sponsor's sponsor? How many meetings was I going to? What was my home group? How long was I sober? After peppering me with these questions for about 10 minutes, she sat back and gave me a big smile. "You can have the car," she said. "It is \$200. Do you want to look at it?"

I was so flummoxed that all I could say was no. I didn't need to see it, I told her. I'd be happy to buy it. I gave her the money and my thanks, and she gave me the keys, the title and a hug and told me where it was parked. I realized later that the women wanted their car to go to a good home and that I had their vote of confidence.

So I had a car along with everything else. I felt that if I never had more in my life than I had right then, it would be OK with me. I had my sponsor, my AA friends, a home group, and best of all, my Higher Power.

“Through Step Five, God has removed my shame about being an alcoholic.”

**“Lifting the Burden,” Syracuse, NY,
May 2001, Step By Step**



Hearing a Fifth Step

Wow! What a scary experience, if you have never done this before. I can only offer my own experience, strength and hope on this. Before I arrive at the 5th step location, I pray and ask God to remove me from the situation, and guide my words and actions. I ask God to have me speak when I should speak, and shut-up when I should. I ask for God's will to be done and us both to have acceptance of it. I ask for God to be with the individual, ease their pains, and loosen their tongues.



When I listen to a fifth step, I put an extra chair in the room, and let the person know that this is for God. He is hear with us. I have a box of tissue and often a candle. Tissue...understandable, Candle: seems to bring a little of ease in the tension, and is a great cigarette smoke eater! I ask the person if they have done the third step and ask them to pray with me. We Pray. I give them a brief overview, that I am here to listen. I tell them that I have a pen and paper to take notes for them, and they will be given the notes upon completion of the fourth. If this seems to make them very uncomfortable, no notes are taken on my own. I give them the option. I want to make this as comfortable as possible. I assure the person what is said here, stays here.

I listen. I share some of my own personal experiences with the individual and ad humor whenever possible, if needed. As I take any notes, which is very little, mind you, I write down things that I hear often in their character defects list. Just the word, that is all. When they have finished their readings, I tell them they did very good. If the individual did not include any assets in the fourth step, we make a list of them now. It's over! They admitted their wrongs and the nature of them. Now, they know the nature of some of their character defects to some extent and they know they also have assets, and are not bad people. I give them a list of what I jotted. This is for them to keep for a later date. I ask them if they are willing to have these defects of character removed. If they are, we go directly into the Seventh Step Prayer.

I tell the individual that the big book says that we are to spend one hour in silence and reflect on our program and grounding in it. We are to think about weather or not we feel we have a good grounding. I also let them know that their emotions may be varied for a little while after completing the fifth step. I instruct them not to beat themselves up over anything now. The hardest part is over, and healing can begin. . I assure them that it gets better!

A Spiritual Overhaul

Donald W. - Fort Myers, Florida

As my friend was making himself a cup of coffee, I was struck with how familiar I was with his situation and how not uncommon it is throughout contemporary AA. After the initial journey through the steps, he had now put together many months of freedom from alcohol and other substances but now, through his own admission, "Things are not good". It was the usual situation: sobriety in jeopardy, wife not appreciative, children ungrateful, bills in arrears and his peace of mind damaged. He had a desperate desire to change, but saw no way out, for he thought he had earnestly tried many avenues of escape.

When my friend returned and sat down, he said, "I honestly do not get it, I go to meetings, you see me every week at our homegroup, and I try to be a good guy" he said. He also reminded me that he was the donut guy at our homegroup. "Two snaps for that but you and I both know it is going to take more than a weekly run to the Krispy Kreme to get you back on the beam", I said.

"I don't see why", my friend said, "Jim is my sponsor, you may know him, he works as a car salesman, we play on the same softball team and my best friend is Fred from our homegroup, you know, the accountant. He did my taxes this year and we often chat when I see him at the meetings. They don't seem to be having a tough time, they seem to be fine". I nodded appreciatively. "Sorry, my friend, but not all alcoholics are created equally when it comes to recovery. Many of the people sitting in the rooms get by just fine with a meeting or two a week. They ride the fellowship train, and I am not suggesting that is a bad thing. It works for them and that is what counts, right? "

"Yeah, well apparently it does not work for me. The only train that I am on is about to go off the tracks in a big way". I managed a weak smile at such a sally. Painfully aware of being somehow abnormal, my friend did not fully realize what it meant to be spiritually fit. It was time to get to work on that.

As I was preparing for my friend's visit, I thought of one of Bill Wilson's core beliefs throughout the Big Book that an alcoholic is uniquely qualified to help another alcoholic because we have been there. We have experienced the lack of ability to control our drinking once we started as well as the insanity of the first drink. That was the real problem, Bill maintained, our lack of willpower to make good on our promise to stop drinking forever only to pick up a drink again days or sometimes a few hours later. We can effectively carry that message of our powerlessness over alcohol because we have experienced it first hand, we have been through it. As Doctor Bob put it in his story regarding his initial visit with Bill Wilson, *"Of far more importance was the fact that he was the first living human with whom I had ever talked, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience. In other words, he talked my language."*

My thought was that I was sure that works for Step 1 stuff, but my friend faced another difficulty that was not directly addressed in the Big Book. That being, what about the person who has been through the step process, has been sober for a few years and is now unhappy with life, problems seem to be piling up on them, they are, do I dare say, restless irritable and discontented. Often, pride and our old nemesis, the ego, has resurfaced, and they dictate that we should keep all this to ourselves. I had seen this movie before, I was IN this movie before. I understood where my friend was coming from because I had been there myself.

As my friend settled in, we went over again the symptoms of his current spiritual malaise, and he reiterated his pledge to get back to basics, that he must redouble his spiritual activities if he expected to survive. I did not need to remind him of his spiritual deficiency—he was well aware of it. And in drawing on

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A Spiritual Overhaul

Continued from page 7.

aforementioned wisdom of the AA pioneers, I would reach back to my own experience to help my friend. I knew what he was talking about regarding not being spiritually fit – but sober - from actual experience. Yes, I could pass my experience along to him – if he cared to have it. And so, we began.

My friend stated that he was somewhat reluctant to engage in the step process when he first arrived in the rooms of AA. I smiled, “Yeah, I get that, me too”. Then he said, “When I heard some of the guys in my homegroup talking about the spiritual awakening, well, I honestly had my doubts if that was in the cards for me. I mean, I believed in God, and I had gotten to the point where I realized after so many failures that trying to stay sober on my own was probably not going to happen, you know?” “Yeah, I get that, me too”, I said again, sipping on my coffee. “So, I went ahead and did the steps with my sponsor, and it was unbelievable how great it felt when I walked out of his house after doing my 5th Step and then starting my amends. I felt like a new person, you know what I mean?” “Yes, I do”, I replied. “So, what happened?” I asked. “That is what I am asking you!”, my friend burst out laughing.

I told my friend that I arrived at the doors of AA in 1995 and begrudgingly did my step work after a year. By 2002, I was bored with AA. I was bored with my sobriety. I hit the wall, I had flatlined in sobriety. “Did you want to drink?” my friend asked. I replied “Not really, I considered my option to be something much darker, something that there would not be any coming back from. In looking back now, it seems almost impossible to fathom that I even floated that idea in my head. But I did.”

I was not trying to “scare” my friend, it had been my experience. It is certainly not something that I think about often today but in talking about it with my friend, I will admit, it still scares me all these years later. In the beginning of the chapter “A Vision for You”, it describes a common problem faced by alcoholics - *He cannot picture life without alcohol. Some day he will be unable to imagine life either with alcohol or without it.* I got to that point in my drinking. The first part was obvious, my drinking was killing me physically, I had to stop. But the second component was the part least understood by me and I believe by many others as well, including my friend who sat across from me. Alcohol served a purpose in my life. It was my “go-to move” when I was up, down, or somewhere in between. When alcohol was removed from my life, I was OK when I was up, OK when I was somewhere in between. But what about when I was feeling that life was not treating me right? What about when life dealt me a bad hand? What if I am not getting what I want when I want it? I didn’t know it at that point, but that was the problem. My “solution” to my problems was going to be taken away. But I have also come to learn that I do not necessarily have to be dealing with problems to become restless, irritable, and discontented. Again, not all alcoholics are created equally when it comes to recovery. For many of us, after a while removing alcohol from our lives creates a void that can be filled by other less-than-spiritual endeavors if not downright vices that often lead to a return of character defects that we thought had been disposed of during our personal housecleaning.

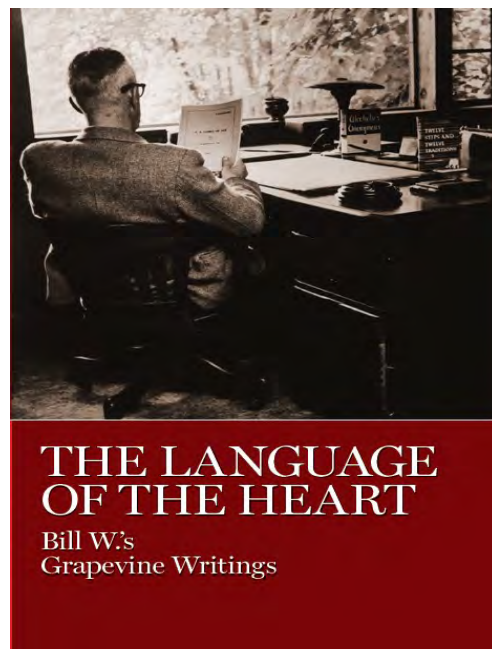
“Man, you make this sound serious,” my friend said. “It is,” I responded. “Perhaps your situation is not as dire as I was talking about, but it will certainly be an opportunity lost for you and that will be a tragedy. To live your existence with peace and serenity, to have the ability to meet life’s challenges with confidence and courage, freedom from resentments, to have a life free from fear and worry, that is what the AA way of life is all about”.

“Yes, yes, yes! Where do we begin?” my friend exclaimed. “I think the early pioneers in Akron said it best when they summed up the formula for recovery as, ‘Trust God, clean house, and help others’. Let’s see where you are with them for starters”.

Series To Be Continued ... June 2022 COURIER.

“During days and nights of darkness as I face the demons of self, the knowledge that my God is always in charge keeps me trudging to the end of each journey. With God, AA, and willingness I can meet the other me and begin putting my fractured self together again.”

“Facing the Truth,” Cleveland, Ohio,
February 1993, AA Grapevine



**“How do I know when I’m doing God’s will?
I don’t ... but, I KNOW when I’m not.**

AA GRAPEVINE, February 2003

**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

Does your Group have an Intergroup Representative?



In Partnership With Our Groups

All AA Groups and Meetings are eligible for membership. Groups elect an Intergroup Rep. and an Alternate Rep.; they usually serve for 2 years. This is up to each group to determine. The Reps. attend the monthly Intergroup Meeting. The meetings are held 12 times a year on Reps. Are responsible for two-way communication between their Home Group and Intergroup.

*The Intergroup Representative
Custodian of our Vital Services*

I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that; I am responsible.

Step Five Timetable

The information for Step Five began with a sincere session of spontaneous writing where I asked God to make clear my selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear. This awareness, plus my "official" Fourth Step inventory process (directly out of the Big Book), provided a new awareness of the lurking demons (grosser handicaps)

that had kept me drunk year after year. These destructive fiends freely frolicked in my unapproachable subconscious. They were protected from the Sunlight- Of-The-Spirit of truth by a dense dark and distorted fog of falsehood and deceit. This Fourth Step awareness did not make them disappear, but, at least, I had found honest information for use in Step Five. Someone said,

"The truth will set you free," but I have come to believe there is more to it than simple awareness. I have found that continued action is needed to *face and be rid of* my now-obvious shortcomings and defects. This was to take place in Step Five. The Big Book tells me to do Step Five at "first opportunity," which turned out to be about five minutes after the Step Four session (I love the Big Book timetable!). I confided to my sponsor a detailed revelation of those little demons and devils of conceit, jealousy, carelessness, intolerance, ill temper, and all the rest of it—not only to my sponsor, but to GOD! My sponsor had not the power to relieve me of this new-found 'bondage of self,' but luckily the Big Book tells me that God could and would if he were sought! (p. 60) Those dangerous demons cannot survive in the sunlight of God's Truth! The Fifth Step promises, on page 75, tell us that we now begin to have a spiritual experience. Well, the realization that God is soon-to remove the very things that blocked me from seeing and acting on the truth- in-drink indeed speaks of a radical inner transformation! I believe the main goal of this vital step is to bring realization of what dominant inner forces have blocking the truth-in-drink.

Following Step Five I knew what imperfections to ask God to remove in Steps Six and Seven. It was very important that I acted before my mind decided to remember only what it wanted to remember. I believe that the Big Book timetable is very important here! We are told to do Step Four 'at once,' Step Five at 'First opportunity,' review for a short period and 'then' (not later) do Step Six, go right into Step Seven 'when ready.' My sponsor helped me via the Big Book time-table directions. I haven't had a drink of booze since!

~~ Bob S., *By The Way* Newsletter, Sacramento, CA, May 2017

A Memorial Day Weekend Celebration of our Basic Text!



It's in The Book!
May 27-29, 2022



Big Book Workshop Weekend



DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON™

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE:

Friday

6:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. - Big Book Workshop

Saturday

8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Big Book Workshop

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Private Banquet Dinner

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. AA Speaker Meeting:

Henry M. (Miami, FL)

8:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. DVD Presentation of
"Bill W." (104 minutes) ~ Page 124 Productions

Sunday

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Big Book Workshop

An Optional Saturday Night Banquet!

Food, Fun & Fellowship!

Saturday Night Banquet!

Conference Registration
(Register online at www.serenityclubswfl.org)

\$43.00 Per Person

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____
ZIP _____ PHONE _____
EMAIL _____

Registration Per Person \$43.00

Optional Saturday Night Banquet \$38.00
[Only 75 banquet tickets available]

TOTAL _____

Make Checks Payable To:
and Mail To:

The Serenity Club
12435 Collier Blvd., Ste. 107
Naples, FL 34116

DOUBLETREE ORLANDO EAST - UCF

12125 High Tech Avenue, Orlando, FL 32817

407-275-9000

ask for Group Code: **SBB**

Conference Rate Only \$99

(FREE Parking & FREE Wi-Fi)



21st Spring Into Sobriety Women's Conference

June 10th to June 12th

sisconference.com

Hotel Venezia

425 US 41 Bypass North Venice, Florida 34285

Please call hotel for accommodations: **941-308-7700**

Ask for the SIS Conference room rate of \$89 per night

Registration begins January 1, 2022 • Register Early • First 100 will receive a special gift

Registration on-line (pay securely with credit, debit or PayPal) sisconference.com

Or mail registration form below along with check made payable to SIS Conference Inc. to:

SIS Conference • 433 Padova Way, North Venice, FL 34275

****Please note you will not be able to register at the conference****

For further assistance email us at: womensis@gmail.com or call 941-218-7095

REGISTRATION and ORDER FORM – please print

Name: _____ Sobriety Date: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____
 Email: _____ Contact Phone #: _____

Checkmark your choices (Please write legibly):

_____ \$ 35.00 Registration ****REQUIRED**
 _____ \$ 17.00 Friday Night: Taco Buffet
 _____ \$ 17.00 Saturday Lunch: Soup / Salad Bar / Assorted Wraps
 _____ \$ 35.00 Saturday Banquet: _____ Prime Rib _____ Chicken Florentine _____ Zucchini Spiral over Rice
 For special dietary needs call or email SIS to see if the hotel can accommodate.

T-Shirt Orders: Items can be seen on sisconference.com (Preorder & pickup at registration). T-Shirts are not available for purchase at the conference.

Orders for T-shirts must be received by 5/1/2022

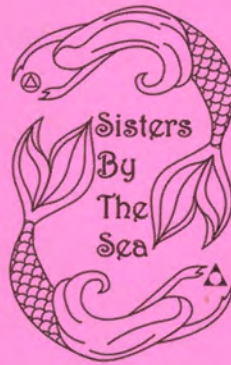
Available Sizes: **S - M - L - XL - 2X - 3X - 4X STANDARD FIT**

Short Sleeves Grey and Lt. Blue – Razorback White and Pink

Total \$	Qty		Size
_____	_____	\$20.00 Razorback White	_____
_____	_____	\$20.00 Razorback Pink	_____
_____	_____	\$22.00 V Neck Short Sleeve Grey	_____
_____	_____	\$22.00 V Neck Short Sleeve Lt. Blue	_____

_____ Donations to Scholarship _____ I am requesting a scholarship
 _____ I would like to volunteer

_____ CONFERENCE and ORDER TOTAL



Naples, FL
2022

June 17, 18, 19

**A Group Of 400 of your
Closest Friends**

A Conference for AA & Al-Anon Women

Line B. Kelly B. Holly D.

San Diego, Ca. St. Petersburg, Fl. Jacksonville, Fla

Beverly B.(AFG) Mari G. Angie B.(AFG)

Lewiston, Tx Toronto, Can Destin, Fl.

Sisters By The Sea

A Journey through the Steps...The Stairway to Serenity

Hotel Information Hilton Naples

5111 Tamiami Trail, Naples, Fl 34103

**Free Shuttle To The Beach
Free Beach Chairs ~ Free Wi Fi
Free Parking**

Rates available until May 1st, 2022

\$160 Per Night Single or Double

(239)430-4900 Group Code: SBS

EARLY BIRD SPLASH PARTY

POOLSIDE 12-3 FRIDAY

Sorry No Refunds Questions
call Peggy P.E. (239)269-7651 or
email: Sistersbytheseallc@gmail.com

Sisters By The Sea Registration

One form per person or register online at

www.SistersbytheSea.com

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Phone _____ SOB _____
EMAIL: _____

Registration \$50

Banquet \$50.00 Choice

Mahi Mahi _____ Chicken _____ Vegan _____

Make Checks Payable to: Sisters By The Sea

**PO Box 305 Marco Island, Fl. 34146 [https://
www.eventbrite.com/e/sisters-by-the-sea-2022-
tickets-239318055747](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sisters-by-the-sea-2022-tickets-239318055747)**

Al-anon SOB _____ AA SOB _____

The 65th Florida State Convention



“Oceans of Devotion”

August 3rd – 7th 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

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

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

5TH ANNUAL KEYS FOR SERENITY ROUNDUP 2022

September 16-18, 2022

DoubleTree Resort by Hilton

3990 South Roosevelt Blvd

Key West, Florida

Workshops* 12step meetings/Panels

Alanon Participation w/meetings and speakers

*Banquet*Entertainment*Sobriety Countdown

Don't Miss this exciting 3-day event in beautiful Key West at oceanside!

Book now! Registration \$45.00

Hotel Accommodations at a discounted rate

Go to KFS website for event registration and hotel reservations

Guest Speakers Include:

Georgia B California

June G California

Steve L Tennessee

Jack C California

Register online now at: www.keysforserenity.com

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Our committee is working closely with the host hotel DoubleTree Resort to ensure the health and well-being for those who attend our conference. We will follow Covid-19 guidelines according to the CDC as well as city/state ordinances.

FINANCES**April****YTD 22****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	\$4,481	\$15,915
Group Contributions	2,625	12,001
AA Birthdays	0	100
Faithful Five	15	155
Individual/Anonymous	338	1,159
Total Income	7,459	29,330

Expenses

Bank/Credit Card Fees	108	420
Travel/Licenses/Permits	70	70
Office Supplies	420	1,872
Office Improve/Repair		0
www Hosting		0
Payroll	1,958	7,834
Payroll Tax		0
Postage	4	30
Printing		459
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	4,183	13,571
Insurance		0
Rent	500	2,000
Sales Tax	582	1,358
Telephone/www	219	857
Utilities	100	400
Computer Equipment		
Computer Software	13	332
Computer/Maintain		
Total Expenses	8,157	29,203
Net Ordinary Income	(698)	127
Gratitude Dinner		
Other Expenses		
NET OTHER INCOME		
NET INCOME	(\$698)	\$127

**Thank You to all who contributed to
Naples Intergroup / Central Office.**

Spirituality and Money

"While the work of the group treasurer often involves many details, it is important to remember that the money the treasurer oversees serves a spiritual purpose: it enables each group to fulfill its primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. This is the fundamental work of A.A. and to continue it the group must keep its doors open. The group treasurer is an important part of this Twelfth Step work."

SELF-SUPPORT:**Where Money and Spirituality Mix****Naples Area Intergroup**

1509-2 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>April</u>	<u>YTD22</u>
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482.....	0.....	64
12 Steps By Paragraph.....	0.....	0
24 Hour Solution.....	0.....	462
After and Before.....	0.....	50
Anchor.....	0.....	0
Aprendiendo A Vivre, 176467.....	0.....	0
Back To Basics.....	0.....	0
Beach Bums 641645.....	0.....	300
Big Book Comes Alive.....	0.....	0
Big Book Step Study.....	0.....	0
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101.....	0.....	54
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630.....	0.....	110
Big Book Study, 662395.....	0.....	0
Bonita Awareness, 124788.....	0.....	0
Bonita Banyan, 176463.....	144.....	301
Bonita Beginnings.....	0.....	0
Bonita Friday Night.....	0.....	0
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....	0.....	733
Bonita Men, 654428.....	0.....	0
Bonita Morning.....	405.....	405
Bonita Saturday Night.....	0.....	592
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	0.....	303
Bonita Springs Women's 169127.....	0.....	0
Bonita Springs Step, 134588.....	0.....	0
Bonita Unity.....	0.....	0
Bonita Wed Beginners.....	0.....	50
Bonita Wed 11th Step.....	40.....	40
Bring Your Own Big Book.....	0.....	0
Brown Bag, 163924.....	580.....	909
Cake Meeting, 701813.....	0.....	0
Came to Believe, 615490.....	0.....	0
Candlelight, 606877.....	0.....	0
Comes Of Age.....	0.....	0
Common Solutions, 179613.....	0.....	740
Daily Reflections ZOOM.....	0.....	525
Early Reflections, 653770.....	0.....	0
Early Riser, 161795.....	668.....	1,156
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
Girlfriends.....	200.....	200
Go To Any Length, 305375.....	0.....	0
Golden Gate, 123819.....	0.....	0
Good Orderly Direction, 642330.....	0.....	0
Gratitude Hour, 134223.....	0.....	0
Happy Healers.....	500.....	500
Happy Hour, 172923.....	0.....	0
Jaywalkers, 634271.....	0.....	0
Keep It Positive, 650541.....	0.....	0
Keep It Simple, 651598.....	0.....	898
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950.....	0.....	100
Ladies Noon.....	0.....	0
Living Sober, 605904.....	0.....	0
Living Sober Isle of Capri.....	0.....	0
Men Of Naples, 634030.....	85.....	145
Men's Big Book.....	0.....	0
Monday Night Men Step 724529.....	0.....	0
Monday Noon Big Book.....	0.....	0
Monday Noon Daily Reflections.....	20.....	48
Morning Reflections, 660700.....	0.....	470
Naples Group, 103609.....	0.....	760
New Dawn.....	251.....	251

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD22</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.....	150
Our Common Welfare.....	0.....	0
Out To Lunch Bunch, 147323.....	0.....	0
Pay It Forward, 704772.....	0.....	0
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715.....	0.....	685
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.....	32.....	32
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.....	48.....	78
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.....	21.....	49
Walk The Steps With Women, 701923.....	0.....	0
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	0.....	0
We Care, Bonita, 617011.....	0.....	145
Wednesday Step St. Johns.....	0.....	0
Where Are We.....	0.....	100
Women's Spirit.....	0.....	0
Women's Step, 159957.....	0.....	0
YANA, 270553.....	0.....	0
Unidentified Group Contribution.....	0.....	161

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

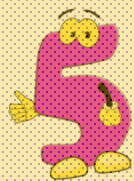
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the **2022 AA Birthday Club**? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics who still suffer. Envelopes available at Central Office or from your In-



Paul B.	50 years
Don M.	42 years
Jim B.	40 years
Peter F.	27 years
Bill S.	20 years



Faithful Fivers Needed



2022 Faithful Fiver Club

*Bill S., James B., Jeanette H., Jim B., Jim H., Judy W.,
Kathryn Mc., Ken H., Paul B., Ron L., Theresa R., 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
jerryeddlleman@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
jerryeddlleman@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
joeascalai@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
diannamusse@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:**

Fourth Thursday of the Month, 7:00 pm
New Attitudes Club
4133 Tamiami Trail E.
(Lakewood & E 41)
Behind Speedway Gas

**NAPLES
INTERGROUP
MEETING****Central Office**

1509-2 Pine Ridge Rd.
(next to 24 Hour Club)

SECOND Wednesday of
each 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
katmcadam@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., Anthony M., Bill C.,
Bill S., Bonnie B., Carrie W.,
Fay B., Lauren F., Nikki E.,
Raz K., Pat S.,
Peggy G., Sue S., ... and loyal
substitutes.

Service Opportunity