

# THE COURIER

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



September 2022

## 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. (Reprinted with permission of AA Grapevine, Inc.)



## Naples Area Intergroup 2022 GRATITUDE DINNER

Saturday, November 19th @ 7:00pm

### NORTH NAPLES CHURCH

6000 Goodlette Road North  
Naples, Florida 34109  
<https://nnchurch.org>

Tickets: \$35.00 each.

Shirley P., Immediate Past  
Chairperson, Area XV  
Chairperson, 65th ( 2022 )  
Florida State Convention



Purchase tickets at the INTERGROUP OFFICE,  
or from your home group Intergroup Representative.

Questions: Call the Intergroup Office: 239/262-6535

## Identification

**Ann Meese**

Naples, Florida

Once I surrendered to the Program and the 12 Step way of life, I became teachable and began identifying more and more with everyone - even people with whom I wouldn't normally mix. I identified with cravings, triggers, feelings - all the things that came before picking up the first drink. They helped me understand my own unmanageability which I couldn't always see at first. Connecting the dots of where my alcoholism had taken me to the disease of alcoholism was a gift that kept on giving as started my AA journey.

One of the greatest of these gifts in my early days in recovery was when someone in a meeting said they identified with something I said. Me. The validation that I wasn't crazy was amazing. Identifying my struggles as being the same that other people went through meant so much to me. I heard someone say in a meeting that we can identify and name our mistakes, faults and defects because someone else before us identified and named them, too. It meant that I wasn't alone with them, living in the shadow of their shame. It meant that I'm just a human being like everyone else.

Today, I know that identifying with other people and them with me is a gift of the Program that unites us in a common language. A person who says "that happened to me, too," is saying I understand your pain. They're saying you fit right here. You belong. And there's help here for you. There's hope here, and if you follow some simple Steps, you will come to believe it for yourself and you'll want more.

To help someone else identify by telling a shameful thing we did while impaired by alcohol or drugs is not easy. No one likes the leveling of pride that comes along with this deal. It takes humility which is not always easy to come by. But once we have the experience of helping someone that way, I believe that we heal a bit a more from our own painful experiences with alcoholism. It's as if air gets let out of that heaviness we sometimes feel inside when a painful memory of how things were comes to the surface once again, even at the oddest times. The Program suggests that we don't shut the door on the past, and I believe it's because our histories with alcoholism can help the next person identify with their own alcoholism. But leaving the door to the past open also gives us another chance to let some of the shame out, expelled, exhaled, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. I believe it decreases every time we share the truth about our own alcoholism with another alcoholic.

I learned in AA that I need to be a part of something greater than myself because my loneliness only turns my identification with others into comparison to others - a place where I always lose out. I never measure up in that state of mind where self-pity usually sits, waiting to shift my attitude to the dark side. I may not drink the day that I'm comparing myself too much to someone else, but I can sure be walking in that direction, and that is a very uncomfortable place to be for an alcoholic.

To compare my insides to someone else's outsides is pretty much a waste of time, I've come to believe. Through my interactions with other AA's, I've learned that while it may be helpful to, as they say, try to walk around in someone else's shoes as a way to get to know them, it can only provide a small glimpse into all the motivations behind what another person thinks and feels. Human behavior is just too complex to be used as a comparison to how I think I would have reacted to something or someone. In the end, all I'm doing when I'm comparing myself to someone else is judging them when I don't really know everything about them or the situation they may have found themselves. It's a very poor, very limited way to get to know someone.

When I first came into recovery, I thought I could read people pretty well. I thought I could figure them out. Now, after years in the program, I find a better way to get to know someone is just to be curious about their lives and listen. I don't have to measure up to anyone else. I just have to be right-sized - human-sized - to be able to do the service my Higher Power provides for me.

When I finally learned to simply identify with another person's story as they told it, I learned about true empathy for another person. I stopped thinking that I was so sure what it must have been like for them. The truth was, I could only imagine what it was like for them, and instead of judging them, I could try to find compassion for them. The ironic benefit of this practice over time was that by truly listening to someone else, I finally understood who I am. I got to know myself because I identified with someone else. And because I had a plan for my recovery that involved meetings and AA events, I found that I fit into a wonderful AA home. I found my tribe, as my sponsor used to say. Learning to identify and not compare myself to anyone else has given me one of the greatest spiritual gifts I've ever received. There's a Native American prayer I love that says it best:

**"My Creator, I seek strength not to be superior to my brothers and sisters, but to be able to fight my greatest enemy - myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so when life fades as a fading sunset my spirit may come to you without shame."**

My greatest wish is that by the end of my life, all the air is let out of the pain, humiliation and shame I've carried due to my alcoholism, so that I, too, may go to my Creator without the burden of it any longer. Helping other people identify and let go of their own shame has changed me and lightened my load. I am grateful for the road I'm on, able to see the sign posts that say:

**You Belong Here - You are One of Us. Welcome!**

# The NINTH MONTH for ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

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

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

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

**9Th Step Prayer:** *I pray for the right attitude to make my amends, Being ever mindful not to harm others in the process. I ask for Your guidance in making indirect amends. Most important, I will continue to make amends by staying abstinent, helping others and growing in spiritual progress.*

## TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

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

**"The only way I ever found to displace a thought was to put another thought in its stead."**

***"We Must Banish Fear!" Alexandria, Virginia, August 1950, AA Grapevine***



## A SPIRITUAL OVERHAUL ... continued from the August 2022 COURIER

Donald W.  
Fort Myers, Florida

For the past two hours, my friend and I had been talking about getting back on the spiritual beam, and as usually is the case, this newfound interest in spiritual principles was born out of recognition of my friend's dissatisfaction with his life. Up to this point, most of our conversation was centered around my friend's current conception of God. My friend acknowledged that it had not changed all that much in the time that he had become active in AA and gone through the step process with his sponsor, Jim. I asked him why he thought that was and he replied that he never considered it. He reiterated that starting each day with a quiet time was really "not my thing if I am being honest." I responded dryly, "Thanks so much, I appreciate your honesty." My friend stared blankly back at me, not sure what to make of that response.

As I headed back into the kitchen for a bottle of water I thought, "Well, that comment was not necessary" even though it appeared to go unnoticed by my friend. Sarcasm was one of those what I call 'Tier-Two' character defects that enables you to feel good for a moment at another's expense. I must admit it did feel good to fire off a subtle zinger at my friend's expense. "Give yourself a minute", I thought, "you can figure out a way to justify your sarcasm as being useful to mankind in some way, so you don't have to change anything." Go big or go home, right? I then was reminded of that line in the Big Book, "We claim spiritual progress, rather than spiritual perfection" and thought about how many times I had pulled that phrase out of my hat as a get-out-of-jail-free card to justify questionable thinking or behavior and then just moved on. No, I made a mental note to give this some more thought in tonight's evening review.

As our discussion resumed my friend admitted that a strategy to address his litany of grievances toward his wife, his kids, his boss, and anyone else on planet Earth who was not following his "daily script" that was going to be based upon getting them to change was probably not realistic. "I guess that I am the one who has to change but I am not sure I have the power to do that" my friend conceded. "Do you think that God has the power to change you?" I asked. He paused for a moment. "I guess I never thought about that, I just assumed He was too busy to be concerned about my stuff." That comment was telling. When we talked about believing in the power of God and trusting in God, my friend was adamant that he was all in. But here he was saying that he wasn't sure if God could or would direct him toward a solution for his current difficulty.

"I think that it is fair to say that the presence of God working in our life is unique for everybody. I could never tell you what you are supposed to be thinking or feeling about that relationship. I think that is the way it is with all aspects of spirituality; I am not sure I can tell you what it is but I can sometimes see it in others although most of them would give you a puzzled look if you asked them to share with you how they got to be spiritual. I think that one of the most important lines in the Big Book to help us understand what our relationship with God *COULD BE* is in the chapter, *There Is a Solution*.

After describing the transformation that will come about in us - a new attitude towards life, our fellows, and God's universe, the paragraph closes with this; *The central fact of our lives today is the absolute certainty that our Creator has entered into our hearts and lives in a way which is indeed miraculous. He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves.*

"Didn't you pick up an anniversary chip a couple of weeks ago?", I asked. "Yes, four years. Pretty disappointing that after all that time I am still struggling with life and those darn bedevilmements." I replied, "Disappointing yes, but unfortunately not surprising given that you have copped to, as the Big Book says, resting on your laurels. "What the heck does that mean anyway?", my friend shot back. I nodded and said, "The meaning of resting on one's laurels is to be satisfied with past success and do nothing to achieve further success."

"Ouch", my friend responded. I continued "You were willing to do the work, you went through the step process with your sponsor Jim, you said your life had changed dramatically and now here we are some four years later and you are dissatisfied with life, no one is doing what you want them to do, life is not treating you well and you are blaming everyone else if I am hearing you right. But you also admitted that you are not following the directions that the Big Book lays out to maintain our spiritual fitness." My friend sighed, "I guess I have to admit, guilty as charged on that one."

"Yep", I replied. "Call me if you want to talk but let's say we meet back here in two weeks and we will talk about expanding your routine, does that sound OK?" My friend responded, "Works for me, if I have any questions, I will give you a call. See you at the meeting on Saturday, I appreciate your help!"

Continued on page 5.

## A SPIRITUAL OVERHAUL ... continued from page 4.

"Don't be too hard on yourself, not uncommon at all in contemporary AA. But that in no way diminishes the gravity of your situation. We can do something about it if you are willing to take the necessary actions to get back on track. Returning to that paragraph in the chapter *There Is a Solution*, consider the last line, *He has commenced to accomplish those things for us which we could never do by ourselves*. That is exactly what we have been talking about, right? I asked you if you thought that God had the power to change you and you responded with something along the line of that God was probably too busy, right? You sound like a guy who has finally got up the courage to ask the pretty girl for a date and before she has a chance to respond he blurts out 'oh, you are probably busy, never mind!'" My friend burst out in laughter, "How did you know about that?", he roared.

I continued, "A spiritual awakening is all about change. If we are willing to follow the plan of action laid out in the Big Book our lives will be transformed. That is what happened to me and millions of other alcoholics. How that transformation is manifested in our lives is unique for each one of us, but it will occur if we are honest and thorough throughout the process. Let me go to the book again because I can't say it any better than this; *It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for alcohol is a subtle foe. We are not cured of alcoholism. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent on the maintenance of our spiritual condition.*"

"God does have that power to change us if we are willing to keep close to him and perform His works well." "Let me guess, another Big Book line, right?" I smiled and responded, "One of the Step Three promises, vastly underrated and not frequently discussed in our meetings. I like to explain the Third Step by presenting it as a contract between me and my Higher Power. The definition of the word contract that I like to use is that a contract is *an agreement between two entities that says what each must do for the other.*"

In that part of the Big Book, they describe the 'terms' of our contract. What our respective roles are to be and, everyone's favorite part, what is in it for us. God provides all of these great blessings for us in return for what appears to be two simple requirements – we keep close to Him and perform His works well. Again, one of those simple but not easy instructions."

"I think I see where you are going with this," my friend chimed in. "How can I claim to be trying to stay close to God when I am making little if any, contact with Him? I think I am beginning to see what you have been talking about, how all of the steps in the program are linked together and taken individually they are powerful but when you understand how they are linked together, well that is another level."

"Yeah, that is kind of the way I see it", I responded. "Step Three is linked with Step Eleven. The directions in Step Eleven enable us to fulfill that portion of that Step Three contract, it is how we keep close to God. If I do not take that quiet time in the morning it is like I am saying to God, I don't need your help or guidance today, I got it, I will be running the show." My friend slowly shook his head, "Man, I like how you break it down, that makes sense. But it's not like I did not know that. I certainly have been around long enough that *I should know that*, but it blows me away how I could just disregard that basic idea."

I responded, "In my view, one of the most important lines in the Big Book for anyone just starting out, particularly if they are struggling with their conception of God is the line *God does not make difficult terms on those who seek Him*. That is a beautiful line, I can only imagine how many people felt a great weight fall from them when they were struggling with a Higher Power early on. For me, at my very first meeting, I arrived almost 45 minutes before the start of the meeting. The only person there was the coffee maker who asked me right out of the gate if I believed in God. I said I did and then he gave me my first set of directions in starting a new relationship with God. It was simple, 'Get down on your knees in the morning and ask God to keep you sober that day and then at night, get down on your knees and thank Him for another day without a drink.' Not being someone who always followed directions, at least in this case I took his suggestion to heart and started doing just that, every day, and every night."

My friend jumped in, "And you have been sober ever since, right?" "Yes," I replied "and that is truly a miracle because for a long time I failed to enlarge my relationship with God beyond that quick check-in in the morning and thank you at night although I was not anything close to perfect with either of those. Even begrudgingly going through the step process and having a spiritual awakening in my life, my morning routine was inadequate. I certainly was not seeking God. Maybe I thought I would run into Him in the produce section at Publix or something but because alcohol had been removed from my life I was on autopilot, hitting my meetings, sharing my awesome insight at discussion meetings, and cruising along."

Continued on page 6.

**A SPIRITUAL OVERHAUL ... continued from page 5.**

"Yeah," my friend responded, "I remember you sharing at a meeting that you gradually reached a point in your sobriety where you found life unsatisfactory. But do you think that was related to not doing quiet time in the morning?"

"That was but one element of the *clear-cut directions* that I had not embraced into my new way of life. The directions for Step Eleven are on pages 86 and 87. That includes what I like to call a starter kit for your morning devotion and evening review. Remember that earlier line I quoted from the Big Book, that *God does not make difficult terms on those who seek Him?*" My friend nodded in agreement, and I continued, "Well, the key part for us today in that sentence is *who seek Him*. The dictionary definition for seeking is *to try to locate or discover or try to establish the existence of something or someone*."

"Not sure I follow", my friend said. I smiled, "My point is that we are the ones who need to be doing the seeking. God is not coming to look for us, I am pretty sure He already knows where we are. We are given the free will to choose whether we will seek God or not. So how do we do that? A good chunk of the directions for that appear in Step Eleven. So how about if we start there?", I asked my friend. He nodded his head in agreement, "OK, just read that part of Step Eleven in the morning? I can do that, sounds good".

"That is part of what I would suggest you begin to do but I would recommend a few more actions. You can turn your life around, but it is going to take effort on your part. As a friend of mine likes to say, 'willingness is perishable'. I do not want to pile too much on you but if you are willing to make the effort, I can lend a hand along the way."

"Yes, as I have often heard said in the rooms, I want what you have. I am serious, I want to change my life. I don't want to lose my family or my job. I want to find that guy again that had that spiritual awakening that I lost along the way. I want to be that guy again. I trust you, what do I have to do to get the ball rolling?" "I have a couple of suggestions," I replied. "Do you have a quiet place to sit before you head out to work in the morning?" "Yeah, I am an early riser, but I may need to get up a little earlier as I usually head out the door and pick up coffee at Dunkin Donuts on the way to work but I can make my coffee at home and head out to the backyard." "Perfect," I replied, "Let's start with the two paragraphs on page 86 beginning with *"Upon Awakening...* That's it for now. Read them carefully every day. Take a few moments to consider what they are asking you to do. When you are done, I want you to send me a simple text message – all you have to say is 'DONE'. My friend's eyes widened, "That's it? Every day send you a text message with the word 'DONE' after I have finished the reading?"

**To be continued ... September 2022 COURIER.**

**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**

## Who's in Charge Here?

Corporations, churches, schools, even local civic clubs are organized. Yet Tradition Nine states that AA as a whole should never be organized. As a newcomer I was intrigued by Tradition Nine. I landed in a fairly large home group and to my untrained eyes it looked very organized. I immediately began my search for the person in charge. I figured someone had to be running the show – so many different people in the same space – so who's giving directions? The captain goes down with the ship, the buck stops with the CEO – who's running AA?

I was directed to attend my home group's Steps and Traditions meeting and eventually understood that no one was in charge. No one in AA could tell me what to do nor could anyone stop me from coming to AA. My recovery/sobriety was my going to be my "thang." I could do what I wanted to do and no one could kick me out of AA for my actions.

AA's General Service Office is headquartered in New York City. One might think that someone there has some authority over organized AA Groups, but that's not the case. What they can do is offer suggestions based on the accumulated experience of AA members around the world - "Of course you are at perfect liberty to handle this matter any way you please. But the majority experience in AA does seem to suggest...."

Over the years, I've tried to apply the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous (a design for living) to the best of my abilities. I know that if I fail to integrate the lessons of the Steps into my life, I risk drinking again. The same principle applies at the group level. If we don't conform to AA's Twelve Traditions, our fellowship will deteriorate and die. Unfortunately, I have witnessed the demise of groups that failed to practice the Traditions.

I want to stay sober and Tradition Nine is there to ensure sobriety to all who may want it. Commitments and opportunities for service abound: 12thstep calls need to be answered, rent must be paid and meeting rooms set up, the coffee brewed and refreshments purchased. In all these and other matters affecting the group, it's the spirit of service that binds us together in a true and enduring fellowship.

## AA Volunteer Opportunities



*Naples Area  
Intergroup*

**Mornings: 9:00 to 12:30**  
**Afternoon: 12:30 to 4:00**

**and, Telephone Helpline**

**After-hours, various days.**

**1-year continuous sobriety.**

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

## The Persons We Have Harmed

### It's Time to Pay the Piper

Rick R., Miami, Florida

How many of us show up at the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A) ready to start exploring our past and all the issues that we have had with our fellow man? Not me! I came here with a rationalizing, alcoholic mind, and the last thing I intended to do was to go searching for more things to hate about myself. The alcoholic within me was pointing the finger at them to minimize the appearance that I was at fault. My mind was constantly spinning yarns to have the right answers ready should anyone question why I did the things I did. In all my waking hours, I got no peace of mind unless I had something to drink in me, and when that happened, it diminished the need to care about other people and, in fact, it immediately turned into drunken arrogance and often into verbal and physical confrontations. A life lived by those standards can only end in destruction and when we have the option to drink it away, we can put it off indefinitely, but eventually we will have to pay the piper.

Not everyone can repair all the damage they have done in the past, to our families and friends, and that is simply because some of them have moved on and may not be concerned about what our plans are, and they do not see the need to be involved in the drama that the alcoholic is going through, especially with their memory of the failed *good intentions* of the past. Until we have a history of changing our way of life and putting some time between us and that snapshot of our last drunken debacle, we cannot expect any recognition from them since they are not following us around every day recording our progress.

When it comes to making a list of all the persons we have harmed, the first thought that came to my mind was, how far do I go with this list. My thought on that is; what amount of peace of mind would I be satisfied with? The most obvious people are the ones that are closest to us such as family, friends, employers, and as I list those, I can spiral outward to the more remote people like relatives, friends from the past, and so on.

The last thing I hear questioned is who I owe amends to and again, the peace of mind issue sets the standard for who goes on the list. First off, if I have completely changed those old behaviors and have put them behind me, I have already mended my ways and all that is left to do is to acknowledge my past mistakes in the presence of the person receiving the amend. I find it easy to level the playing field by simply asking the question: "Have you ever done something that you really regretted?" The answer usually goes: "Of course, who hasn't?" Next, I say, "Can we talk?" You have just leveled the playing field. You can do this with anyone that you feel uncomfortable about, when you hear their name mentioned, and eventually you will run out of people that are constantly renting room in your brain. In the rare occasion when a person responds to your effort to make things right, in a negative way, they may have issues of their own that we are not aware of, you have done all you can, and you can put it behind you. All that free space in your head adds up to *peace of mind* and you have the rest of your life to complete it.

## Next Convention: 2025 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Vancouver will welcome A.A. members from around the world for the 2025 International Convention. This will mark the 90th anniversary of the beginning of our Fellowship's founding. The International Convention will take place from July 3 - 6, 2025, at the Vancouver Convention Centre and BC Place Stadium.

As the Convention approaches, we will update our website with registration information. Let's celebrate sobriety together in Vancouver in 2025!

[International Convention | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](https://www.aa.org)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/inadmissibility/overcome-criminal-convictions.html>



**FINANCES****Aug'22****YTD'22****Income**

Literature/	\$2,468	\$27,046
Group Contributions	823	20,769
AA Birthdays	0	520
Faithful Five	119	369
Individual/Anonymous	5,700	7,350
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,110</b>	<b>56,254</b>

**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees	90	731
Travel/Licenses/		249
Office Supplies	384	3,584
Office Improve/Repair		355
www Hosting		360
Payroll	1,958	15,668
Dist 20 Inst Committee		177
Postage	96	154
Printing		459
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	4,483	22,194
Insurance	578	578
Rent	500	4,000
Sales Tax	173	2,378
Telephone/www	220	1,730
Utilities	100	800
Computer Equipment	675	675
Computer Software	113	1,984
Computer/Maintain		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,370</b>	<b>56,076</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-\$260</b>	<b>\$178</b>
Other Income	735	735
Other Expenses	32	32
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>703</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$443</b>	<b>\$887</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 Fraley Station  
P. O. Box 2407  
New York, N. Y. 10116  
(New Address ) (30%)

##### Area 15

Wayne 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>AUG</u>	<u>YTD22</u>
11th Step Prayer & Med., 715482.....	34.....	77
24 Hour Solution.....	0.....	462
After and Before.....	0.....	50
Beach Bums 641645.....	0.....	600
Big Book Comes Alive.....	0.....	206
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101.....	0.....	80
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630.....	32.....	142
Bonita Banyan, 176463.....	0.....	393
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....	0.....	1,544
Bonita Ladies Night.....	150.....	150
Bonita Morning.....	0.....	405
Bonita Saturday Night.....	0.....	803
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	0.....	591
Bonita Springs Step, 134588.....	0.....	83
Bonita Wed Beginners.....	0.....	50
Bonita Women's Step.....	0.....	750
Bring Your Own Big Book.....	0.....	100
Brown Bag, 163924.....	0.....	909
Cake Group.....	40.....	40
Common Solutions, 179613.....	0.....	2,551
Daily Reflections ZOOM.....	0.....	945
Early Risers, 161795.....	288.....	1,445
Easy Does It, 156979.....	0.....	500
Girlfriends.....	0.....	200
Gratitude Hour, 134223.....	0.....	330
Happy Healers.....	0.....	500
Keep It Simple, 651598.....	0.....	898
Ladies Night, Bonita, 672950.....	0.....	100
Men Of Naples, 634030.....	20.....	208
Monday Noon Daily Reflections.....	8.....	84
Morning Reflections, 660700.....	0.....	470
Naples Group, 103609.....	400.....	1,160

<u>Group/ Meeting</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>YTD22</u>
Naples Living Sober.....	0.....	400
Naples South, 130210.....	0.....	250
Naples Young People 699130.....	0.....	0
New Dawn, 632504.....	0.....	622
One Day At A Time.....	0.....	150
Park Shore Women.....	400.....	400
Primary Purpose Marco, 146715.....	0.....	685
Spiritual Solutions.....	168.....	68
Step By Step.....	0.....	32
Sunday Night Speakers, 665079.....	0.....	53
Swamp Group, 672733.....	0.....	50
Tables Of Naples.....	0.....	08
Tuesday Women's Step.....	80.....	80
Veranda.....	11.....	76
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	0.....	30
We Care, Bonita, 617011.....	0.....	220
Where Are We.....	0.....	250
Where Are We.....	0.....	250

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.



Alcoholics  
Anonymous®

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

## General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

Please direct all  
communications to:

P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10183  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

### **STORY SOLICITATION**

Fifth Edition of the Book *Alcoholics Anonymous* —Big Book

**Deadline for submissions: October 31, 2022**

**Online submission:** [aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th](http://aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th)

The Preface to the Second Edition of the Big Book explains that revisions to the personal history section of the book were made in order “to represent the current membership of Alcoholics Anonymous more accurately, and thereby to reach more Alcoholics.”

In that spirit, the 2021 General Service Conference recommended that “a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect the current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action:

*“The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, ‘The Doctor’s Opinion’, ‘Dr. Bob’s Nightmare’, and the Appendices remain as is.”*

In response to the 2021 General Service Conference Advisory Action requesting the development of a Fifth edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking a wide range of A.A. recovery experience of members in the Fellowship.

The trustees’ Literature Committee is searching for recovery stories of our members for possible inclusion in the Fifth Edition which are from a broad cross-section of our local communities, all stories are of value. As Bill writes on page 29 of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*: “Our hope is that many alcoholic men and women, desperately in need, will see these pages, and we believe that it is only by fully disclosing ourselves and our problems that they will be persuaded to say, ‘Yes, I am one of them too; I must have this thing.’”

It is the Literature Committee’s shared hope that any new stories from our current membership will help future alcoholics to identify and find recovery in the pages of a Fifth edition.

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 3500 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages. Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information on the first page of the submission. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files.

The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not. Stories will be accepted in English, French or Spanish. If you have any questions, please write to [5BBStory@aa.org](mailto:5BBStory@aa.org).

Instructions for submitting your manuscript:

**Deadline:** Please submit on or before October 31, 2022.

**Online:** [aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th](http://aa.org/submit-bigbook-english-5th)

**Email:** [5BBStory@aa.org](mailto:5BBStory@aa.org)

**Subject Line:** Fifth Edition of the Book *Alcoholics Anonymous*

**Postal Mail:** Attn. Literature Assignment, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

**On the envelope:** The word "5<sup>th</sup> Edition BB" should be written on the envelope and at the top of the first page of the manuscript.

Thank you to all who are participating in this process!

## The Birthday Club

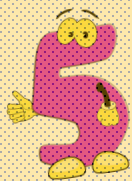
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics 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.	20 years
Ken H.	20 years
Mary B.	18 years
Laura T. F.	4 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  
joeascalialia@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

## Treatment Commitments

### DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER

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

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

NAPLES AREA  
INTERGROUP MEETING  
Central Office  
1509-2 Pine Ridge Rd.  
(next to 24 Hour Club)  
SECOND Wednesday of  
each month at 7:00pm

## Area 15; Panel 69

*(South Florida, Baha-  
mas, US and British  
Virgin Islands, Anti-  
gua, 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., 239/248-0596  
accabinets123@gmail.com

### Vice Chair:

Robert C., 239/784-8514  
bcrowe616@aol.com

### Treasurer:

Spence G., 239/207-7534  
spenceg123@gmail.com

### Secretary:

Tiana B. 337/283-1208  
tsbrancato@gmail.com

### Members at Large:

Kathy Mc., 239/776-9643  
katmcadam@yahoo.com  
Tim A., 239/571-5440  
timallencmb@gmail.com

### 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

Anthony M., Bill C., Bill D.,  
Bill S., Bonnie B., Chrissie F.,  
Faye B., Gay S., Leo H.,  
Jerry M., Lauren F., Nikki E.,  
Noreen H., Rob O., Sue S.  
substitutes.

**Service Opportunity**