

# THE COURIER

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

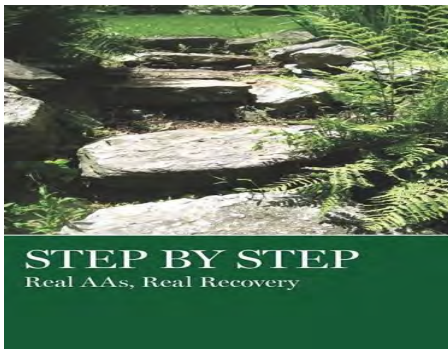
Happy Birthday  
A.A. June 10th

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

June 2023

**Happy Birthday, A.A., 88 years, one day at a time!**

The Gate Lodge, located at the entrance to Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, is where the first unofficial Alcoholics Anonymous conversation was held in 1935.



**“Step Six may be the greatest act of courage in the whole twelve-step process: a total act of faith. I have to trust that God will see the big picture and make the right choices.”**

## 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.)



## June ... The Sixth ( 6th ) Month Of Alcoholics Anonymous

### Step 6

*"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character"*

### Tradition 6

*"An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."*

### Concept 6

*On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they*

### Sixth Step Prayer

*Dear God, I am ready for Your help in removing from me the defects of character which I now realize are obstacles to my recovery. Help me to continue being honest with myself and guide me toward spiritual and mental health.*

### The Traditions Checklist from the AA Grapevine

*These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.*

### Tradition Six

*An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

- 1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several AA beds in our local hospital?*
- 2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?*
- 3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with "Guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?*
- 4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?*
- 5. Some alcoholics will stay around AA only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?*

## A Spiritual Overhaul – continued From May 2023

Donald Wood, Ft Myers, FL

June 2023

“It’s going to be a hot one” I muttered to no one in particular as I closed the sliding glass door behind me upon entering the lanai. The calendar had just flipped to June but the heaviness of the air made it seem more like the dog days of summer. Curious expression. My mind flashed back to my Roman History professor explaining that the phrase came about as the ancient Romans noticed that the hottest days of the year, in late July and early August, coincided with the appearance of Sirius - the Dog Star, in the same part of the sky as the Sun thereby contributing to the heat of the day. Last night I couldn't remember where I parked my car after coming out of Publix. And now this morning I am remembering an anecdote from my college days. Mercifully, the doorbell rang and I was transported back to 2023.

It was good to see my friend back from a short trip over on the east coast. I had received his text notification each day confirming that he had tended to his morning devotion and I was curious to hear about his efforts with the evening review which we talked about in our last meeting. But first I wanted to hear how the trip with his wife and the kids went. “It was great,” my friend declared. “I believe that doing this work is really helping me a ton. I even brought my books with me on the trip and got up early to catch my quiet time before the gang got up. Even my wife joked to her mom that I had been ‘born again’. Her mom has never been my biggest fan, I guess I can’t blame her for that. At some point, I would like to talk to you about doing some inventory on her so I can make a proper amend. Don’t know how I missed that on my 4<sup>th</sup> Step. To be honest, I never considered it. I guess that was because I didn’t have a major resentment toward her but now I am starting to see it differently. Resentment or not, I am sure I hurt her with my antics when I was drinking.”

“No worries,” I said smiling. “This might turn out to be a good thing. Making amends can be a tricky process, especially if we are going in by ourselves.” “Right”, my friend responded. “Wait a minute. Are you saying that you're willing to come with me when I go over to make the amends to my mother-in-law?” I laughed. “No, I wasn't talking about bringing me along. I was talking about your Higher Power. Remember what the book says at the bottom of page 87, *As we go through the day we pause, when agitated or doubtful, and ask for the right thought or action. We constantly remind ourselves we are no longer running the show, humbly saying to ourselves many times each day ‘Thy will be done.’*”

“We haven’t talked much about the relationship between Steps 10 and 11 but once again, another example of the power of the synergy in the steps.” “Hold on,” my friend interrupted, “you said that synergy meant the working together of two things to produce an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects, correct?” “Bingo, my friend,” I responded. “And Steps 10 and 11 are exactly that. Think about it. You may recall that I said working on Step 11 is an element of fulfilling that 3<sup>rd</sup> Step contract that we talked about. Think back to the line on page 63, “... *He provided what we needed if we kept close to Him and performed His work well.*””

“Step 11 gives directions on how we can keep close to Him. What to do in the evening, what to do in the morning, and what to do as we go through the day. I believe that when you stay close to Him, God provides what you need to get through your life. No task is too big, and no task is too small. The key is to open up that channel to our Higher Power and we do that by following those directions in the book. I recognize that it is not simple or easy, certainly, it takes practice, patience, and persistence. Or perhaps one word says it all – discipline. And the chapter closes with Bill Wilson stating, *‘We alcoholics are undisciplined.’*”

**“A Spiritual Overhaul” ... continued from page 3.**

“Yeah,” I said. “That is not uncommon. It is a perfect metaphor, however. To lose weight, and get in shape, requires commitment, dare I say, discipline. We must understand that we have to transfer that same dedication that we brought to the gym to our spiritual exercises if we want to make progress. A friend of mine used to say that just going to meetings and not working Steps 10 and 11 in your life is like going to the gym, not doing any exercise, just sitting in the corner, and smoking a cigarette.” My friend nearly spits up his coffee and reached for a napkin on the table. “Come on man, you’re killing me!” he bellowed. “I get your point though, that makes sense. Spiritual progress requires effort just as it does on the physical plane but I am not sure I follow you on the connection between Steps 10 and 11. How do you see them being related?”

I responded, “Have you ever heard the expression that if you take the Steps off the wall you will get an off-the-wall program?” “Yes, but I never gave it much thought,” my friend replied, “What am I missing?” I nodded and said, “OK, think of it this way. Step 10, on the wall, says, *‘Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it’*, right? For a long time, before I got into studying the text of the Big Book, I took that to mean that the 10th Step was for damage control, it only applied when I have upset somebody.” My friend looked perplexed and so I paused. “Soooooooooooo, it’s not?” my friend tilted his head to the side and frowned. “Well it is but it is much more than that,” I responded, “But perhaps we are getting ahead of ourselves. There is a lot to this and that is one of the beautiful aspects of this work. The deeper you go, the more satisfying it is. No resting on our laurels for us, my friend!”

I smiled and said, “Before we go too far down this path let’s talk evening review, how is that going?” “Pretty good,” my friend declared seemingly pleased to be getting back to something he was familiar with. “In our last conversation where we went through the mechanics of the process and you gave me that handout with the questions to use for the review, I walked away thinking that it was going to be pretty easy and that I could knock it off in a few minutes. And for a couple of nights, that is exactly what I did. I was like, ‘Was I selfish? – No! Was I dishonest? – No!’ But then what stopped me in my tracks was that darn *‘Were we kind and loving to all?’* And it dawned on me and this goes back to what you were just saying about Step 10. No, I didn’t say or do anything that would require me to make an amend but was I kind and loving to everyone I interacted with that day? Holy cow! Not even close!”

“I get it, man,” I said shaking my head in amusement. “It’s unbelievable, right? What happens is that when we engage in this evening review process we begin to become aware of not only our actions during the day but also our thoughts. And that opens the door to a whole other side of inventory, not just our behavior but also our thinking. See, I couldn’t get a perfect score on the evening review if I was tied up, blindfolded, and gagged in my garage for an entire day because my thinking would most assuredly be out of whack!” “Nice visual,” my friend shot back, “But again, I get your point.

I continued, “My problem is that as an alcoholic my ‘default setting’ is restless, irritable, and discontented. That’s what I have to work with when I wake up in the morning. Some days are worse than others but my challenge is always where do I go next? On any given day I can either go up to happy, joyous, and free, or down to the bedevilments. As an alcoholic, I am a *victim of the delusion that I can wrest satisfaction and happiness out of this world if I only manage well.* The Step 10 ‘spot-check’ and the Step 11 evening review are the tools to help me to keep my eye on the prize, that is, how can I do God’s will and help others. If I am not spiritually fit, I can’t do that.”

“I get it, man,” my friend responded. “I am curious to know more about the synergy between Steps 10 and 11 but you kind of blew up my whole understanding of Step 10 so I guess I better buckle up, it’s going to be a bumpy ride.” I laughed, “No, not at all as long as you are willing to let go of some old ideas. But I do think that at this point some coffee is in order, be right back.”

## God as I Misunderstood Him

Jim B.

Bonita Springs, FL Step Group

I'm going to talk about God.

Whoa! Wait a minute. This is AA. You need to say "A Power Greater Than Yourself" or "Your Higher Power." This isn't a religious organization. That "G:" word turns a lot of us alcoholics off in a big way.

Yeah. I've been there. What I'm sharing here is my own experience, strength and hope. Your mileage may vary. I'd like to talk to you about what I've experienced, the strength I have found in Alcoholics Anonymous and my hopes for tomorrow that I'd like to pass along to you.

To begin, I was raised in a family that had a mother and a father. They were devout Roman Catholics and raised my two brothers and I in that faith. Mass every Sunday and prescribed "Holy Days of Obligation." When I reached the appropriate age, I made my first Confession and First Communion. That was a big deal in my family. My parents threw a big party and all the extended family (also Catholics) brought me gifts and we had a cake. I remember the cake had a Catholic Rosary decorating it.

I had no problem with the Catholic Church until I reached puberty. Then things started to fall apart. The nuns who taught me in the parochial school had told me that an angel was assigned to each of us to record our behavior, marking a plus or a minus next to every thought, word and deed. Puberty threw that ledger for a loop. All I seemed to think about was girls — their smells, their figures and their attention. I was naturally shy, so much of my inner feeling remained inside. But to that angel, it didn't matter. If I thought about it, I had committed the sin. My only hope was to confess it and receive absolution. The big problem was that I couldn't bring myself to say these thoughts aloud to the priest. So I fudged my words, using words like "I had impure thoughts" rather than the reality of sneaking girlie magazines and masturbating. I received "absolution" for minor infractions, while the big ones remained. I was told to vow never to commit these offenses again, but I knew I couldn't keep that vow.

Thus the Communion that I took the next day was corrupted by my continuing "sins." That was another mortal sin. The ledger kept piling up with these mortal sins until I knew that I was condemned to everlasting fire. I couldn't live with that, so I turned my back on the Catholic Church and its teachings.

To my mind, that meant turning away from God in any form.

I wandered through life that way for the next twenty years. I called myself an Agnostic rather than an Atheist. I was willing to accept that there might be a God, but he had no interest in me. During that time, I violated just about every moral principle I had been taught.

I went to college and discovered the healing properties of alcohol. The magic elixir that allowed me to be comfortable in my skin for a time. Over the years, that time became shorter and shorter, until it disappeared altogether leaving only the need for alcohol behind.

I was confronted by my drinking by my superior, who said we could probably deal with it, if I admitted I had a problem. I said I did, not because I believed it, but to keep my job. I was working for my father-in-law at the time.

[Continued on page 6.](#)

## God As I Understood Him – continued from page 5.

Then came Alcoholics Anonymous. The vice president of the company was a member of Alcoholics Anonymous with 10 years sobriety. He left the office, hopped on a plane and flew a thousand miles to spend the day with me. He never asked me any questions. He talked about himself. We went to dinner and the conversation continued. What I remember most was that he smiled most of the time, even when relating some awful episodes. After dinner we went to my first AA meeting. That was 40 years ago.

Little by little, through the fellowship and attending hundreds of meetings, I started to take some actions that I never would have predicted I would do. I got a sponsor (though I waited 2 years to develop enough humility to admit I need one.) He told me of the necessity of finding a “Higher Power” that I should pray to each day, if only to say “Thy will, not mine, be done.” I had been using AA as my higher power up to that time. I was willing to say the first part of that abbreviated prayer, but couldn’t bring myself to give up my will.

I told him that I didn’t believe in a God that I could pray to. He gave me an assignment that changed my life. He told me to go home and make a list. If there was a God that I could pray to, what would be the characteristics of that God.

I listed my requirements such as: does not condemn me for my past sins, loves me as I am, is all forgiving, won’t turn His back on me — ever, The list included some other requirements that I expected the God I was raised to believe in wouldn’t be interested in. I brought the list to my sponsor. He looked it over and smiled.

“That is God as you understand Him.”

That’s all it took. That wall between God and me, that I had built and maintained for decades, crumbled at that moment. I was free.

My understanding of God has changed over the years, but that’s because I have changed, not God. God blessed me with Alcoholics Anonymous and the members who have encouraged and supported me over these past 40 years.

I pass along this hope to anyone who is still struggling to find God as you understand Him. He’s right there waiting for you to give Him a chance.

“Part of the magic of AA is that the Fellowship, like the loving God who presides over us all, never gives up hope for the suffering alcoholic.”

West Palm Beach, Florida, September 1986, “The Kid Who Came In from the Cold,” In Our Own Words



IN OUR OWN  
WORDS  
Stories of Young AAs in Recovery

## Desperation is a Great Motivator

### Sincerity is a Great Healer

Rick R. - Miami, FL

Recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) affects people in many ways. The first and most obvious is their ability to abstain from the use of alcohol for without that there can be no recovery. Next is the willingness to abandon the idea that they can do this on their own and to seek the help of something outside of their own failed way of thinking. Third is the act of surrendering and “buying in” completely (so to speak). At this point, the recovery process may differ depending on your age, gender, economic situation, marital status, legal woes, and other side issues. It is not our role to judge anyone who comes to A.A. seeking help nor is it our job to bail them out of their current situation out of sympathy.

That does not mean that we cannot buy a meal for a hungry soul or give them a few bucks for gas. We are recovering alcoholics and our role is to listen and to try to understand what they need from us consistent with the principles we have learned and relate our experiences with them. Younger arrivals usually are dual addicted and the average long-term alcoholic that has not experienced the drug culture lifestyle may have a difficult time identifying with them. Recovered addicts usually share about their Rip Off mentality as a user, while the average common variety alcoholic talks about guilt and shame and the need to pay their bar-tab. A high percentage of our membership arrive in their forties in the middle of, or on the cusp of the threat of a divorce, and without experienced feedback, make bad decisions where, in some cases, they could have salvaged their marriage and saved the children the damage caused by divorce. My main question when greeting a newcomer at a meeting is usually “What brings you to A.A.?”

Usually, their response comes in the form of a complaint about the situation they are in, (divorce papers, Dui, Fired from job) etc. My next question is, (If that hadn't happened, would you be here today?) Their response is usually, “Probably not.” I then explain that my first wife could have filed for divorce ten times before she became Desperate enough to do it and, had she not, I would, still be out there circling the drain or worse. For two years I tried to convince her to take me back, but it did not happen. Desperation brought me to the door of A.A. where I began the life I live today. This type of perspective usually gets their attention, and they often turn out to be more accepting of the need to change. Next, I will share the experience that worked or me. It may come in a sincere statement such as, “I know that I have been wrong about what a husband/father's responsibilities are and that I am an alcoholic and I believe that I've found the solution to my drinking problem. You have suffered from all of this, and I have learned greatly from the mistakes I have made, and I intend to do my best to make it right. Whatever the outcome is, I want to minimize the trauma to the children as we move forward.” This type of sincerity sometimes takes the pressure off and gives her some breathing room and in some cases, opens the door to salvaging the marriage. My question is: Can you live up to these proposed actions?

Another area where sincerity and ownership of past mistakes has an unexpected outcome is in the courtroom. Judges have heard every flimsy excuse in the world and can see right through all the BS of a con artists, and they are not fooled by them. Believe me when I say that I have witnessed more than my share of these two approaches to resolving the damages of alcoholic behavior, and the sincere approach far outweighs the con job, most of the time, and you cannot fake sincerity.

## JUDIASM and the LORD'S PRAYER

Mike L., Santa Barbara, California  
GRAPEVINE Magazine, January 1997

As a Jewish member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I've been concerned about the fact that so many meetings end in the Lord's Prayer. While I was willing to go to any lengths to get--and stay--sober, I was worried about reciting a prayer that might in some way compromise my Jewish identity.

So I talked with my rabbi, who is knowledgeable not just about Jewish affairs but also about the Twelve Steps. He is Orthodox and the leader of an extremely large Jewish congregation. He does a lot of work visiting treatment centers, and he knows a lot about AA. Probably more than I do.

He explained to me that there is nothing in the Lord's Prayer--or in all of the Twelve Steps, for that matter--that in any way contradicts anything in traditional Judaism. He pointed out that many of the phrases in the Lord's Prayer actually come from Jewish prayers in use two thousand years ago and still current today. While the Lord's Prayer is used primarily by Christians, its origins are firmly rooted in the Jewish prayer book.

Now, I'm no scholar (although I've written a few books about Judaism), and I can't locate all of the phrases in Jewish liturgy off the top of my head, but I know a few, and perhaps these will give some sense of how the Lord's Prayer was assembled.

Our Father who art in heaven = Avinu shebashamiyim

That Hebrew phrase, Avinu shebashamiyim, has been used for millenia to start prayers. The most recent use came in the Prayer For The State of Israel, composed after the founding of Israel in 1948.

Hallowed be thy name = Yiskadal v'yiskadash sh'may rabbo

This Aramaic formation is extremely familiar to Jews as the first line of the Kaddish (the Mourner's Prayer) and also the prayer that separates sections of the Orthodox prayer service.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven = ba'shamayim me'ma'al u'va' aretz mitachas

This line from the "aleinu" prayer, said at the conclusion of each prayer service and in the important Mussaf service on Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, translates as "in the heavens above and on the earth below."

Give us this day our daily bread = Hu nosain lechem l'chol basar

This comes from the first paragraph of the Jewish Grace After Meals. The meaning is that God gives bread to all beings.

And forgive us our trespasses = She'tislach lanu al cal chatosainu

"Forgive us for all of our sins" reads this line repeated many times in the Yom Kippur prayers.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory = L'cha, adoshem

The Jewish phrase translates as "the greatness and the power and the glory." This is a line recited in a Sabbath morning prayer just prior to the reading of the Torah in the synagogue.

Forever and ever = L'dor va'dor

Literally, this means "from generation to generation."

Amen = Amen Amen is actually a Hebrew word from the verb "to believe." In a prayer or a room--or in a Jewish court of law--to answer "Amen" after a statement is to say, "I believe this."

So you see that as a believing Jew, when I'm saying the Lord's Prayer, I'm saying a compilation of excerpts of prayers that are a part of the traditional Jewish prayer book. I hope that this makes things more comfortable for other Jews.

Source URL: <https://www.aagrapevine.org/magazine/1997/jan/judaism-and-lords-prayer>





## Neglect, The Elephant in the Room

### Continuous Credibility Leads to Integrity

By Rick R.– Miami, FL

When we are satisfied that we have given steps one through five our best effort and have identified the most glaring defects of character and shortcomings, it is now time to affect the changes in the most obvious of our faulty thoughts and the behaviors that stem from those thoughts by addressing them in *steps six and seven*. To be successful in this endeavor, we must first get honest with ourselves and begin to *establish some credibility* and by that, I mean *always doing the things we say we are going to do*. We bring most of the basic flaws out in the open as we become aware of them. Then, if we are sure that we are committed to the program, we will want to set in place, principles to live by that cut off our own escape when we stumble and want to revert to that old way of thinking.

Most of us do this with the help of a sponsor or a mentor, if you like, and go by the book as best we can. I did what I thought was a thorough job of it, then one day, about thirty years ago, I was trying to park my car in a somewhat crowded parking lot and as I found the spot, I wanted there was a shopping cart blocking my way. I got out of my car and moved the cart aside, then parked my car. I then got that shopping cart and pushed it back to the store entrance, then went about my business.

From that day on, when parking at any market, I search for a stray shopping cart and take it back to the store just to make up for all the times I shoved one into the flower bed and drove away. After telling that story at meetings over the years, I hear people telling how it is uncomfortable for them to leave the cart adrift in the parking lot, and we all get a big laugh out of it. Neglect, I can tell, the word *neglect* is only mentioned two times in the Big Book (pg. 97 and pg. 129) and two times in the 12&12. (pg. 81 and pg. 151) And seldom, if ever, has it been the topic of a meeting that I can recall. It is like the proverbial *elephant in the room*.

As I started to catch myself shirking my responsibilities it became obvious to me that if I wanted to regain some form of self-respect and dignity, I was going to have to put the word *Neglect* on my list of shortcomings and *question my integrity*. Do I do what is right even when there is no one watching? If credibility is *always doing what I say I am going to do*, then *Integrity*, to me, is *a whole bunch of credibility*. To cut off my own escape I do routine things every day, that cost me nothing and the result of that is a clear conscience. If I am doing the little things that I should, I find it much easier to give the big things that same sort of attention. I never throw trash out of the car window, I pick up after myself, I never walk away from my bed in the morning without making it, and I liken that to being an unspoken prayer saying, I will be responsible, I will be orderly, I will be neat, and I will not be neglectful, I will be respectful, I will stay on the unselfish side of the ledger in all of my decisions, I sometimes revisit those pages in the Big Book and the 12&12 and I try my best not to ignore *the elephant in the room*.

“I inched a little bit closer to AA and a little bit closer to myself ... I was suddenly a part of things, no longer just a shadow figure pulled toward the edge by the centrifugal force of my own fears.”

New York, New York, April 2004, “Centrifugal Force,” Beginners’ Book



**BEGINNERS’  
BOOK**  
Getting and Staying Sober in AA

**“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](mailto:naplesintergroup@yahoo.com)**



**Your Groups’**

**Activities**

**Can Be Here**

**Next Month.**

**To Highlight**

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**239/262-6535**

# 40TH FCYPAA JULY 21-23, 2023

SW239BID.COM

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Add to contact list?  Yes  No

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Bid City \_\_\_\_\_

- Special Needs:
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  - Blind/vision impaired
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“While I wouldn’t recommend that anyone become an alcoholic, I believe that sober alcoholics living the AA way of life have been blessed with a gift. It’s a gift that can’t be bought, that can’t be won in a lottery, that can’t be stolen, forged, or rented.”

Edenvale, Gauteng, South Africa, October 1996, “A Healthy Appetite for Beer,” The Best of the Grapevine, Volume 3



## 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**



# **Willough Visions**

**11103 Tamiami Trail East**

**Is Your Group Looking For A  
Service Opportunity ?**

**We are looking for group leaders to commit to cover  
1 meeting per week for 1 month commitments  
Providing (1 Chairperson and 2 Speakers)**

*This is your opportunity to carry the message that was so freely carried to you.*

**Wednesday Nights 7pm**

**Please contact Peggy P.E.  
(239)269-7651**

**Reserve A Spot for the Month of your Choice While Available**



# 66TH FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION 2023

THURSDAY AUGUST 10 - SUNDAY AUGUST 13

[WWW.FLORIDASTATECONVENTION.COM](http://WWW.FLORIDASTATECONVENTION.COM)

SADDLEBROOK RESORT - WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33543

[WWW.SADDLEBROOK.COM](http://WWW.SADDLEBROOK.COM)

## PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES



AA, Al-Anon, Alateen, Spanish Speaking, LGBTQIA, YPG, First Nations, Old Timer's Panel, Marathon Meetings, Workshops, and Archives Display; Friday and Saturday Banquets, Saturday BBQ lunch and Ice Cream Socials; Sports Activities include Golf, 5K Walk/Run, Pickle Ball, Morning Yoga, and Escorted Motorcycle Ride; Dances and Entertainment including South Florida's own "The A.A. Service Manual: The Musical", Saturday Pool Party, and much more...

**ASL interpretation at main conference's speaker meetings.**

### GUEST SPEAKERS

Marty J. - Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Aaron Z. - Molalla, OR

Larcine G. (Al-Anon) - Hawthorne, CA

Candice M. - Los Angeles, CA

Chris R. - Ingram, TX

Myers R. - Ingram, TX

Marion M. - Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Cathy C. - Tampa, FL

Jane D. L. - Tallahassee, FL

### HOST HOTEL INFORMATION

**SADDLEBROOK RESORT**  
A PREMIER MEETING, GOLF, AND TENNIS RESORT  
5700 SADDLEBROOK WAY WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33543  
[WWW.SADDLEBROOK.COM](http://WWW.SADDLEBROOK.COM)  
800-729-8383

**CONVENTION CODE: 66FSC**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS START ON AUGUST 3, 2022**

**HOTEL RESERVATION LINK: [HTTPS://BE.SYNXIS.COM/?HOTEL=39244&CHAIN=28394&CONFIG=INITIALCONFIG&THEME=INITIALTHEME&ARRIVE=2023-08-10&DEPART=2023-08-11&ADULT=1&CHILD=0&GROUP=FSC](https://be.synxis.com/?HOTEL=39244&CHAIN=28394&CONFIG=INITIALCONFIG&THEME=INITIALTHEME&ARRIVE=2023-08-10&DEPART=2023-08-11&ADULT=1&CHILD=0&GROUP=FSC)**

**RATES:**

- STANDARD ROOM - \$135**
- ONE BEDROOM SUITE - \$155**
- TWO BEDROOM SUITE - \$265**

RATES WILL BE HONORED 3 DAYS BEFORE AND 3 DAYS AFTER THE CONVENTION DATES BASED ON AVAILABILITY



**ALL ROOMS ARE SUBJECT TO STATE AND LOCAL TAXES**

**THIS HOTEL IS NON-SMOKING**  
**CHECK-IN 4 PM - CHECK-OUT 11 AM**



# Serenity By The Sea!



## SEPTEMBER 15 - 17, 2023

*A Weekend of Food, Fun & Fellowship Featuring Meetings, Workshops, Speakers, and a Saturday Night Banquet!*

**BILLY N.**

Delray Beach, FL

**BOB D.**

Las Vegas, NV

**DEBBIE D.**

Concord, CA

**MARI G.**

Ontario, CAN

**MARILYN S.**

Los Angeles, CA

★ *Dynamic Workshop Leaders From All Over The Great State of Florida* ★

**A VARIETY OF SPECIAL EVENTS!**

*(Badges must be worn to attend all meetings & workshops)*

**Open Discussion Meetings! ~ Workshops! ~ Archives! ~ Entertainment!  
Panel Discussions! ~ Specialty Meetings! ~ Ask-It-Baskets!  
Sunrise/Early Bird and Sunset/Night Owl Meetings!**

### HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

*The Naples Grande Beach Resort!*

**844-489-9663**

*Please visit our website for additional information and one-click booking!*

**\$169 Per Night Single or Double Occupancy**  
*(Free Self-Parking, Wi-Fi, & No Daily Resort Fees!)*

**MENTION GROUP CODE: GSBS23**

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

*(Reservations must be made as soon as possible, to receive this rate.)*

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

*Your Registration Includes:*

**Access To All Meetings And Workshops!**

**SERENITY BY THE SEA REGISTRATION**

*(Register online at [www.serenityclubswfl.org](http://www.serenityclubswfl.org))*

**\$45.00 Per Person**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee (Required) **\$45.00**

Saturday Night Banquet (Optional) **\$55.00**

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



**Announcing the NEXT SWFL  
Meeting Exchanges!! (AKA- "Booking meeting")**

**Saturdays- 5/6; 8/5; 11/4, 2023 All @ 7:00 – 9:00am**

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

**9801 Bonita Beach Rd SE, Bonita Springs**

**ALL GROUPS MAY PARTICIPATE!**

**THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR HOW MANY EXCHANGES A GROUP MAKES...**

**JUST AS LONG AS THERE IS AN EXCHANGE.**

***"Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety."***

- Carrying the message to groups we would not normally attend and having them do the same.
- Help groups who may be struggling for attendees and members.
- Expand our connections in our recovery with other meetings in a post-pandemic world.
- Bring newcomers and other recovering alcoholics to more meetings outside their group. (*ahem\**, sponsors take note...)
- Experience the "meeting before the meeting and a meeting after the meeting."
- Other meeting types, such as big book, step, discussion, beginner leads, or others, may also be exchanged for speaking commitments as some groups do not have speaker meetings.
- Expand our sober support and social networks.
- Increased service opportunities for your group members.
- Intergroup and District Committees, plus Corrections; Institutions; PI/CPC; & Intergroup Offices, FCYPAA, Grapevine, and other AA-related service committees are invited to attend to get volunteers too!

***"To keep this, we have to give it away!"***

*For more detailed information on how you and your groups can participate,  
email Tom B @ [tcb4457@gmail.com](mailto:tcb4457@gmail.com)*



# JOIN THE GRAPEVINE BUNCH WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT



Help **Grapevine** & Victor E increase involvement of AA's "Meeting in Print".  
**Service is our Legacy.**  
Grapevine Representatives Needed.  
Snowbirds WELCOME!  
At each meeting we read a story from the current Grapevine.

Grapevine Committee meetings are every other 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @ 5:30 PM at the Intergroup Office next to the 24-hour Club on Pine Ridge Road. We hope to increase each AA members knowledge of **Grapevine** - **The International Journal of AA.** Be the first to have a Grapevine Representative in your Home Group!



**FINANCES****May23** **YTD23****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	\$4,633	\$23,482
Group Contributions	1,167	13,815
AA Birthdays	-	205
Faithful Five	20	160
Individual/Anonymous	100	550
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,262</b>	<b>38,212</b>

**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees	156	602
Licenses/Permits	-	200
Office Supplies	382	2,023
Office Improve/Repair	-	-
www Hosting	-	-
Payroll	2,154	10,772
Payroll Tax	-	-
Postage	10	30
Printing	-	210
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	1,748	16,581
Insurance	-	-
Rent	500	3,000
Sales Tax	320	1,950
Telephone/www	224	1,110
Utilities	100	600
Computer Equipment	-	-
Computer Software	65	624
Computer/Maintain	-	-
Quarterlies / Travel	-	220
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>16,582</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>( \$715 )</b>	<b>( \$756 )</b>

Gratitude Dinner

Other Expenses

**NET OTHER INCOME****NET INCOME** ( \$715 ) (\$756)

**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-B 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>May23</u>	<u>YTD23</u>
11th Step Prayer & Meditation .....	0.....	60
Beach Bums .....	0.....	250
Big Book Comes Alive.....	0.....	145
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101.....	245.....	389
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630.....	37.....	238
Bonita Banyan, 176463.....	0.....	282
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....	0.....	486
Bonita One Day At A Time .....	0.....	362
Bonita Saturday Night.....	0.....	523
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	0.....	460
Bonita Unity .....	0.....	40
Brown Bag .....	0.....	924
Bonita Wed 11th Step.....	0.....	40
Cake Group .....	25.....	25
Common Solutions Naples .....	0.....	1,310
Daily Reflections ZOOM .....	0.....	334
Easy Does It, 156979.....	0.....	1,000
Gratitude Hour, 134223.....	0.....	69
Jaywalkers, 634271.....	0.....	183
Keep It Simple, 651598.....	100.....	726
Ladies Noon .....	0.....	75
Meeting In The Park.....	0.....	135
Men Of Naples, 634030.....	69.....	130
Monday Noon Daily Reflections .....	28.....	43
Morning Reflections, 660700.....	0.....	372
Naples Group .....	0.....	667
Naples Living Sober .....	0.....	20
Naples South, 130210.....	0.....	199
New Dawn, 632504.....	477.....	896
Primary Purpose Marco .....	477.....	2,700

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>May23</u>	<u>YTD23</u>
Primary Purpose—Naples .....	100.....	100
Swamp Group, 672733 .....	0.....	50
Tables Of Naples.....	0.....	30
Veranda.....	27.....	55
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	0.....	35
We Care, Bonita, 617011.....	0.....	151
Where Are We .....	0.....	100

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



## The Birthday Club

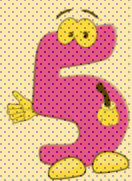
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics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



Paul B.	50 years
Ron P.	50 years
Ron L.	42 years
Don M.	43 years
Jim B.	41 years
Dennis F.	35 years
Rad W.	35 years
Jackie T. F.	36 years
Judy W.	34 years
Steve K.	28 years
Peter F.	27 years
Eileen D.	22 years
Bill S.	21 years
Ken H.	20 years
Laura T. F.	4 years
Tina S	2 years



# Faithful Fivers Needed



## 2023 Faithful Fiver Club

***April O., Bill S., Eric S., James B., Jeanette H., Jim B., Jim H., Judy W., Kathryn Mc., Ken H., Ralph W., Ron L., Theresa R., Tim A.,***

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:

#### Chair:

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

#### Alt. Chair:

Joe S., 845/554-8721  
joeascaliala@icloud.com

#### Registrar:

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

#### Treasurer

George A., 276-4024  
george.arminio1@gmail.com

#### Secretary:

Tom D., 206-6780  
tomadavision@yahoo.com

### Service Committees:

#### Archives

#### Service Opportunity

Business meeting 3rd Saturday @ 24 Hour Club at 11am

#### Current Practices

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

#### Grapevine

Andrea C., 908/347-0494  
4chellana@gmail.com  
Business meeting the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m., 24 Hour Club

#### Institutions

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

### Public Information/CPC

#### Service Opportunity

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

### WILLOUGH

Sunday, Monday and Thursday  
7:30pm  
George A., 276-4024  
george.arminio1@gmail.com

### HAZELDEN

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

### BRIDGING THE GAP

Maria M.  
370-2034  
mmetchear@aol.com

## Area 15; Panel 69

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

**Delegate:** Cary W  
delegate@area15aa.org

**Alternate:** Lisa D.  
altdelegate@area15aa.org

**Chair:** Donna W.  
chair@area15aa.org

**Treasurer:** Karen V.  
PO Box 590835  
Ft Lauderdale, FL  
33359-0835  
treasurer@area15aa.org

**Registrar:** Robin P.  
registrar@area15aa.org

**Secretary:** Bronwyn F.  
secretary@area15aa.org

## Naples Area Intergroup

### Trusted Servants

#### Chair:

Robert C. 784-8514  
bcrowe616@aol.com

#### Vice Chair:

Service Opportunity

#### Treasurer:

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

#### Secretary:

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

#### Members at Large:

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

Bill C., Bill D., Bill S.  
Bonnie B., Carrie W.,  
Chrissie F., Eric S., Faye B.,  
Gay S., Joe B., Nikki E.,  
Peggy E., Rob O., Tina S. ...  
and loyal substitutes.  
Service Opportunity

#### After-Hours Phone Volunteers

Geoff E., Heather B., Ken H.  
Lauren F., Libby S., Nancy  
C., Steve K. and Tim A.  
Service Opportunity