

THE COURIER

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



239-262-6535
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www.aanaples.org

July 2023

Step 7 (Humility)

The concept of HUMILITY quickly becomes a mind game to me. If I say I have it, I don't; but I need it to do this step. It quickly becomes a maze I can get lost in, and from there it's just another delaying tactic. It took me an embarrassingly long time to really get what Step Seven is all about.

For a long time I made lists of which defects I wanted God to take away first and what it would look like once they were gone. There were a bunch of defects that I intended to leave be until after I was too old to really enjoy them; and, I even had reasonable excuses to keep some of them. Of course, I did want to live life in a way that was more socially acceptable and morally upright. I wanted to be admired by those I cared about, and that was going to take some work. I wanted to be a good person. None of that served me very well. I just wasn't getting there, and I was afraid I never would.

I was working really hard and figuring out how to do this thing. In fact, I was obsessed with it. One day, the danger of obsession became infinitely clear to me. As I was driving along, obsessing on just how to fix my son in ten words or less, I made a turn and came within a foot of hitting a pedestrian. I had become even more dangerous than I was in the old days! Wandering around in my own head was a dangerous way to run away from my own fears: the fear of not being good enough, the fear of not doing it right, the fear of failure.

It began to dawn on me that humility is about admitting this fear to myself and not running away from it. It's about admitting that I, alone, am never going to figure out how to get rid of all of the things that stand between me and living a life I can respect. Okay God, I get it. You're going to have to do this for me. My will, my brain power, and my obsessions are never going to do it for me. In fact, those are the things that got me into trouble in the first place. The first time I let go of this fear and self-will was in the First Step. Now, I'm asking that You take away the parts of me that will keep me from staying truly sober.

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.)



JULY...The Seventh (7th) Month Of Alcoholics Anonymous

STEP SEVEN: Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

TRADITION SEVEN: Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

CONCEPT SEVEN: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.

7th Step Prayer: My Creator, I am now willing that You should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that You now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to You and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here to do Your bidding. Amen

TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

They Are Not at Fault

Low Self Esteem

Rick R., Miami, Florida

I am always listening to the different ways that members of the A.A. program try to articulate their perception of their day-to-day problems and what causes them and what can be done about them. I experienced the same type of confusion in my early days and it has taken me a very long time to convince myself to trust the A.A. process and to be totally honest with myself about those issues and I can honestly say that they got it right when they suggested that we “thoroughly follow this path” and that is what I do, to the best of my understanding. It was very hard to let down my egocentric guard in the beginning and even after many years in the program I still had to be very vigilant about my motives for every decision I make.

About twenty years ago, while listening to some members being critical of one of the newer members of the group, I heard this loud popping sound. That was my head coming out of my “*you know what*”. They were accusing him of the same things that I recognized in myself when I was new to the program, and it gave me a new respect for how I treat other people. A friend of mine once said that “*most forms of criticism and character assassination stem from low self-esteem*”. Recognizing these things in myself, and not letting my EGO convince me that I’m superior to anyone has been the most profound leap in my spiritual development that I have experienced in all my years in Alcoholics Anonymous.

They are not at fault; they seem to have been born that way. (Big Book pg.58). If I want people to accept me, knowing that I am flawed myself, then how can I stand in the judgment of anyone else simply because that person has not been as fortunate as I have and has not yet been able to let down his guard? Those critics themselves also deserve my understanding as well for they are just displaying symptoms of alcoholism by being judgmental. We have all been conditioned to defend our turf this way. I have learned that, if I want forgiveness for my flaws, then I will have to be accepting of those other people and have the strength to look beneath the surface and try to understand the things that trouble that person and replace my criticism with empathy and compassion.

As I practice this little exercise on everyone that seems to act outside of the norms of acceptable behavior, I remove one more of those little mental conflicts that used to keep me awake at night. If, when I was new in the program, I could have understood this simple principle and the peace of mind that has ensued as the result, I would have cut to the chase and never looked back, but it wasn’t that simple. I had to unlearn all the faulty behaviors that I employed and replace them with unselfish, proven principles while my EGO fought me every step of the way. I’m happy to report that this approach has put my EGO in the back seat and my conscience rides right up front with me and I am looking forward to my next late sobriety revelation.

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>



“A Spiritual Overhaul” ... continued from June 2023

Donald Wood, Ft Myers, Florida

July 2023

Another 4th of July weekend was now in the books although we still had to endure another night of local fireworks, as tonight was the actual date of Independence Day this year. Our dog Fiona had been on high alert throughout the weekend despite being advised that the intermittent loud bangs that concerned her were not a portend of a Redcoat attack on our abode. Or as our New England ancestors referred to them in 1776, those “damn lobsterbacks”.

Freedom comes in many forms I thought as I sipped my coffee. We celebrate the day of our last drink as the day of our victory over alcohol, fair enough. But the path to freedom from alcohol begins with surrender, not victory. And it is not a date set in the past, but a daily occurrence revisited every 24 hours in our morning devotion. Another one of those “simple but not easy” directions my friend and I had been talking about. And with that thought, the doorbell rang. My friend had arrived.

In the past couple of months, we have been getting together to better understand the directions in the Big Book regarding Steps 10 and 11. My friend had fallen into that “resting on our laurels” trap that the book warns about and despite regular meeting attendance in the past 4 plus years, he got to a point where he felt life was not treating him right. I had been there in that place many years ago and my sponsor presented me with two possible options. One, the entire world would have to change, or two, just me.

Undoubtedly, I had the same quizzical look on my face that my friend had a few weeks ago when presented with those options. I smiled and thought of that line in the book, “...we had but two alternatives: One was to go on to the bitter end, blotting out the consciousness of our intolerable situation as best we could; and the other, to accept spiritual help.” Of course, only an alcoholic would respond with, “Can I get back to you on that one?”

I opened the door to be greeted by a big smile and a booming, “Greetings!” My friend was decked out in holiday colors, a red hat, white shirt, and blue shorts. I suspected he was headed off later to the barbecue at the 24-Hour Club which he affirmed when I asked him what he was up to later. “Coffee?” I inquired. “I thought you would never ask,” he responded with another big grin as we headed into the kitchen. It had been a couple of weeks since my friend committed to doing an evening review as outlined in the Big Book and I was curious to hear the latest update on how it was going.

“I gotta tell you,” my friend said, “at first, I struggled with getting my morning quiet time as part of my routine, but I am even worse with my evening review! Some nights I completely space out and I do not realize until the morning that I went to bed without even picking up the worksheet that is laying right next to me on my nightstand!” I responded, “Do not beat yourself up too bad on that one. For a long time, my evening routine consisted of me thanking God for keeping me sober that day which took what, all of three seconds? And yes, even today I too can tell myself that I am going to just lay down and get comfortable and do my review, and ten seconds later I am snoring away. My friend nodded his head in agreement.

“You see,” I continued, “We struggle with our ego, and we have truly little understanding of just how prevalent and powerful it is with our decision-making in matters big and small, long after we have put down the drink. I heard a speaker once say that we do not follow directions that do not agree with what we think they should say. We are given new information on how to approach all kinds of circumstances in our daily lives and our ego kicks in and we just reject them offhand with that old threadbare idea of ‘yeah, maybe for you but that is not going to work for me’. Sound familiar?” My friend nodded warily.

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“A Spiritual Overhaul” ... continued from page 5.

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Think about it. When we first arrive at the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous, we are told that alcoholism is a hopeless condition of the mind and body. Hopeless means no possibility of a solution but how many of us necessarily buy into that hypothesis right out of the gate? I know my attitude was ‘Maybe that is the way it is with you but give me the information and I will figure out what to do’. That’s another of the forms of ego, ‘I am self-sufficient, and I will handle it’. Or ‘It’s not my fault. If you had my fill-in-the-blank here, you would drink too.’ Can you relate?” “Absolutely,” my friend shot back.

I continued, “I always found it interesting that the Big Book never uses the words surrender or acceptance when talking about Step One. The word that is used is to concede. *We learned that we had to fully concede to our innermost selves that we were alcoholics.* The definition of to concede is *to acknowledge, often reluctantly, that something is true, valid, or accurate.* Emphasis on the words, *often reluctantly.* Later, we are asked in Step One to admit that we are powerless over alcohol. Our ego and pride tell us that we can fix this ourselves. I do not know about you, but I am quite sure in my case, conceding that I was an alcoholic was the first time I ever admitted defeat. I had always blamed others or external circumstances beyond my control for failure. Such is the power of deception embedded in the ego.”

“Now this point of our reluctance to initially concede our alcoholism might seem an extreme example of the manifestation of our ego. But, in our discussion of Steps 10 and 11, it is appropriate and necessary to revisit our old enemy because that is what these Steps are designed to do, combat our ego, specifically our selfish and self-centered view of the world in sobriety. The alcohol has been removed but the ego remains and one of the most destructive ways it manifests itself in a sober life is that the ego tells us that we do not have to do Steps 10 and 11, certainly not the way that the directions are laid out in the book. Even though those directions could not be more clearly stated in those couple of pages in Chapter 6, Into Action. For that matter, what often happens is that our ego has reasserted itself while making our amends convincing us that ‘sure, maybe these guys have to make ALL of their amends but not you, you have done enough!’ My sponsor was fond of saying that humility and ego do not play well together.”

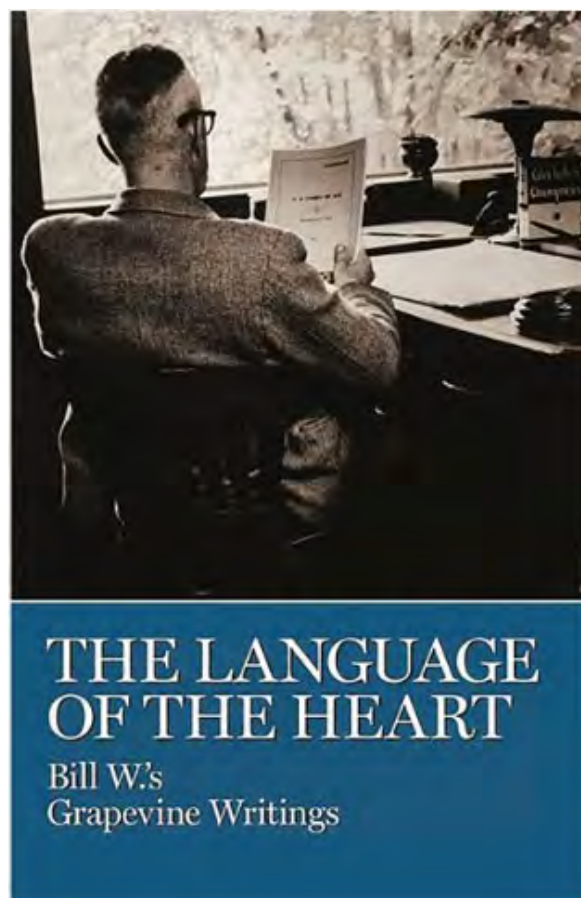
My friend then spoke up. “A couple of weeks ago you talked about how Steps 10 and 11 were how we fulfilled our part of that contract we made with our Higher Power in Step 3, right?” I nodded in agreement. My friend continued, “Well, the other night at the Men’s Meeting the topic for discussion was how do we know what God’s will is for us. After what seemed like an [interminable few moments of silence](#) finally, our friend Dr. Don spoke up. He said something like, ‘I don’t know what God’s will is, but I have a good idea today of what it is not!’” “Ha!” I laughed, “I think I saw that in ‘The Courier’ last month, that is a good one!” “Sure,” my friend countered, “but how does that fit in with what we have been talking about? Doesn’t our ego get in the way of God’s will? Plus, I thought what Steps 10 and 11 are all about is opening a channel so that we can receive guidance to do God’s will?”

I smiled at my friend's passion. I thought to myself, “*He had that starry-eyed look. Yes, the old boy was on fire all right. But bless his heart, let him rant!*” “How about a refill of our coffee and then let us talk about it. Sound good?” “You got it, Big Book thumper,” he shot back, “let’s do it.”

“A Spiritual Overhaul” ... to be continued August 2023.

“If we examine every disturbance we have, great or small, we will find at the root of it some unhealthy dependency and its consequent unhealthy demand. Let us, with God’s help, continually surrender these hobbling liabilities.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1958, “The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety”, The Language of the Heart



Introduction to the *THE LORD’S PRAYER*

Mary Pat B., Naples, Florida

The reason we join hands as we say the LORD’S PRAYER ... is to remind us of the truth ... that we are not alone ... our prayer is for the still suffering alcoholic ... those who are with us ... and, those who are still searching for us. Hold on to the hand of the person next to you like your life depends on it ... **someday it may.**

Can't make it to a live AA meeting? No worries!

The EARLY RISERS PHONE MEETING is here for you; held from 8:05 AM to 9:00 AM every day of the week.

 Join the Early Risers Phone Meeting!

 Dial (667) 770-1476  Access code: 748635#

This meeting was initiated during the Covid-19 shutdown of the 24-Hour Club of Naples by the EARLY RISERS GROUP, ensuring our members could continue to connect and support each other. The meetings have been going strong ever since and offer an excellent alternative for those who cannot attend live meetings and prefer PHONE MEETING over Zoom meetings. Give it a try, I know you will find this group very welcoming!


Meeting Format:

 Monday & Tuesday: Open Discussion

 Wednesday: "Big Book" Meeting.

 Thursday: See Speaker Meeting Script

 Friday: "Step Meeting" – except for the last Friday, which is the "Tradition of The Month" Meeting.

 Sunday: "Daily Reflections" Meeting. You may use any reflection this month. The Chairperson reads and gives the lead.

We have signup sheets for chairpeople to make a one-month commitment for a chosen day of the week. For the Thursday Speaker Meeting, multiple chairpeople are responsible for finding speakers for their selected week of the month.

Don't miss out on the support and fellowship! Join us for the Early Risers Phone Meeting and stay connected on your journey to recovery.

Tim A.

QUESTION: When you walk into your home this evening, how long would it take you to find ... and pick up your " AA BIG BOOK ??? "

A Simple Program for Complicated People Living by the Dictates of my Conscience.

Rick R. – Miami, Florida

“Desperation” has been the great *motivator* for me with respect to the thoroughness that I have applied since the day I surrendered and came to Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) searching for solutions to my, out of control, drinking problem. Not everyone that comes to A.A. has that degree of desperation and that, I believe is the difference in the various degrees of success we, as individuals, have when it comes to abstaining from alcohol.

The reality is that not everyone gets it on their very first attempt. With time, comes understanding and once I got beyond the initial stages of recovery it became clear to me that alcohol did not cause my problems, although it eventually become a problem. My mental and emotional troubles started surfacing long before I ever started drinking and I now realize that the drinking masked most of my mental and emotional difficulties for a long time. But, as it happens, my tolerance for alcohol started to dissipate and the heavy drinking became an obvious problem.

I failed at marriage, jobs, friendships, parenthood, and trust with just about every one that knew me. I burned so many bridges that, finally, I had no place to turn and by some miracle, I woke up one morning, and with no other options ... [I desperately called A. A. for help.](#)

I was finally ready and from that day on ... over fifty-three years ago ... I have never wanted a drink since then. The obsession to drink has never showed its face again; but, had I not recognized the reason that drinking seemed to work. In the early days the mental and emotional problems would be exposed when I stopped drinking and would need to be addressed if I was ever going to be at peace with myself and with the world around me. I feel fortunate that, from that very first day, I have not been in denial about my condition and have embraced, what I recognized to be, the solution to my disease and the pathway to a future of the contentment that I enjoy today as the result of *that thoroughness* that I have applied to every facet of my life.

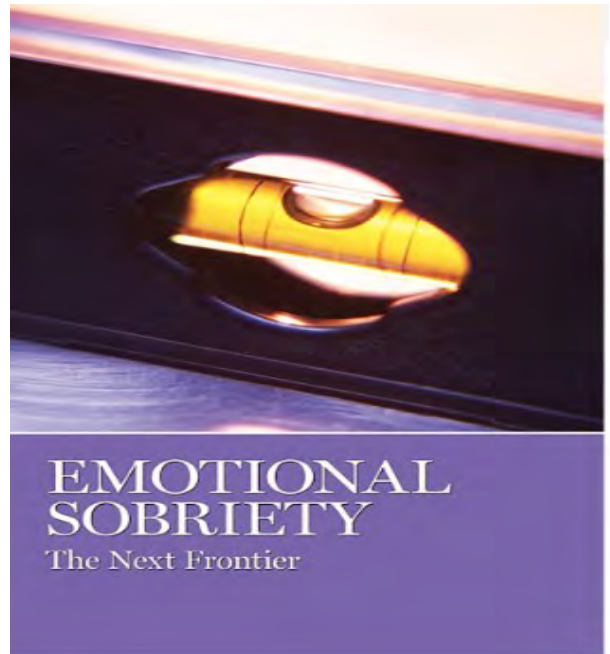
I had to relearn how to be a husband, a father, a brother, a friend, an employee, a neighbor, a partner, and a citizen. I had to become an asset and not a liability. I had to question my motives for everything I did and assure that I stayed on the unselfish side of the ledger. I found it helpful to revisit the spirit of the things that I learned as a child in Church, in School, and in the Boy Scouts... and apply them where the selfish and dishonest habits had ruled my life. I came to understand how my Ego had taken over all my mental properties and I had to let my Conscience slowly regain control of my virtues.

The A.A. program was there when I was ready to throw in the towel and it helped me to recognize all of these changes but it doesn't go into detail about how to meet these noble goals of how to be a good husband, father, friend ... so I had to learn from other experienced sources ... the details of these neglected issues ... and, go about reprogramming my inner self to incorporate all these components of right living.

These things take time, and they do not happen overnight, but I could not let that stop me from beginning this new journey and giving me a purpose for living. I am extremely grateful that the A.A. program was established just in time to be available to save this broken spirit and turn it into the person that I am today ... [as I override my Ego and simply live by the dictates of my Conscience.](#)

“I’m usually about eighty percent of the problem – well, maybe sixty percent ... but the major part ... you can bet on that. If I can leave out the largest percent (me), there is hardly any problem at all!”

“Growth,” Houston, Texas, June 1976, Emotional Sobriety: The Next Frontier



“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

A

Declaration of Unity

This we owe to A.A.'s future:

To place our common welfare first;

To keep our fellowship united.

For on A.A. unity depend our lives;

And the lives of those to come.

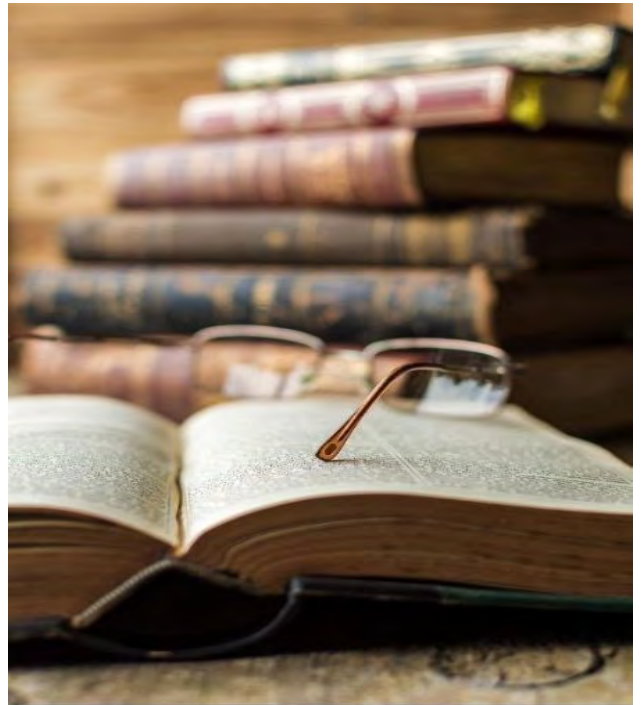
From Bill's last message*

If I were asked which of our blessings
I felt was most responsible for our
growth as a fellowship and most vital
to our continuity, I would say, the
"Concept of Anonymity."

*Read by Lois at the 1970
Annual New York Intergroup Dinner

“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



66TH FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION 2023

THURSDAY AUGUST 10 - SUNDAY AUGUST 13

WWW.FLORIDASTATECONVENTION.COM

SADDLEBROOK RESORT - WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33543

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
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/

(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, 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)

\$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*

FINANCES	JUN23	YTD23
<u>Income</u>		
Literature/Merchandise	\$3,893	\$26,596
Group Contributions	2,525	16,340
AA Birthdays	-	205
Faithful Five	20	160
Individual/Anonymous	2,200	2,750
<u>Total Income</u>	8,638	46,671
<u>Expenses</u>		
Bank/Credit Card Fees	152	911
Licenses/Permits	-	200
Office Supplies	561	2,585
Office Improve/Repair	-	-
www Hosting	-	-
Payroll	2,154	12,926
Payroll Tax	-	-
Postage	0	30
Printing	277	487
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	1,266	17,847
Insurance	-	-
Rent	500	3,500
Sales Tax	283	2,233
Telephone/www	224	1,693
Utilities	100	700
Computer Equipment	-	-
Computer Software	72	697
Computer/Maintain	-	-
Quarterlies / Travel	-	220
<u>Total Expenses</u>	6,162	45,136
<u>Net Ordinary Income</u>	\$2,476	\$941
Gratitude Dinner		
Other Expenses		
<u>NET OTHER INCOME</u>		
<u>NET INCOME</u>	\$2,476	\$941

**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>JUN23</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	75	509
Early Risers	591	591
Easy Does It, 156979	0	1,000
Gratitude Hour, 134223	0	69
Happy Healers	675	675
Jaywalkers, 634271	0	183
Keep It Simple, 651598	100	726
Ladies Noon	0	75
Meeting In The Park	0	135
Men Of Naples, 634030	36	166
Monday Noon Daily Reflections	9	51
Morning Reflections, 660700	0	372
Naples Group	0	667
Naples Living Sober	0	20
Naples South, 130210	0	199
New Dawn, 632504	477	896
Park Shore Women	300	300
Primary Purpose Marco	477	2,700

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>JUN23</u>	<u>YTD23</u>
Park Shore Women	300	300
Primary Purpose Marco	477	2,700
Primary Purpose—Naples	100	100
Swamp Group, 672733	51	101
Tables Of Naples	0	30
Veranda	28	83
Wanderers, Ave Maria	93	194
We Care, Bonita, 617011	0	151
Where Are We	100	200

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

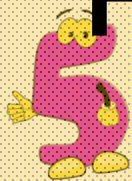
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics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



Paul B.	51 years
Ron P.	51 years
Ron L.	42 years
Don M.	43 years
Jim B.	41 years
Jackie T. F.	39 years
Dennis F.	35 years
Rad W.	35 years
Judy W.	34 years
Steve K.	31 years
Peter F.	27 years
Eileen D.	22 years
Bill S.	21 years
Ken H.	21 years
Laura T. F.	7 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
joeascalialia@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
joeascalialia@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