

# THE COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup  
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Naples, Florida 34109



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August 2023

## ***"Our 12 Step Responsibility: Are We Going to Any Length?"***

August is the Eighth Step and Eighth Tradition month. Tradition 8 is significant because it refers to "Special Workers". Who are they, where do they come from, and why do we need them? Special Workers are employed at our General Service Office in New York. They are all AA members just like us. While they live and work in New York City, they hail from all over the US and Canada. While these paid "special workers" serve the fellowship in many ways, they usually rotate with a new assignment at GSO every 2 years.



Intergroup/Central Office's "special workers" usually are Office Managers. The Naples Intergroup/Central Office employs one part-time paid "special worker" as Office Manager. Like the "special workers" at GSO, the Office Manager is not paid to do 12th Step Work, the Office Manager is paid to facilitate 12th Step work. When Tradition 8 states "forever nonprofessional", "forever" means a long time. We all go to our Home Group and elsewhere to do 12th Step work. Much of what we do as "paid special workers" is to provide information about opportunities that are available to carry the AA message. We do it at the local level. Our friends at GSO do it at the national and international level.

How is all this paid for? Like GSO, Intergroup depends on AA Group contributions, AA member personal contributions, and the sale of literature. We cannot accept gifts from outside the fellowship. Even individual AA members are limited to the dollar amount they can contribute in a given year, currently \$5,000.

Next month is Tradition 9 which is about creating service boards or committees directly responsible for those they serve. Special Workers report to these service boards and committees. The Naples Intergroup Office Manager is responsible to the fellowship through its elected members on the Naples Intergroup Steering Committee. This Steering Committee is responsible to the Fellowship on all AA business.

### **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.



## August ...The Eighth (8th) Month Of Alcoholics Anonymous

### The EIGHTH MONTH of Alcoholics Anonymous

**STEP EIGHT:** “Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.”

**TRADITION EIGHT:** “Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional,

**CONCEPT EIGHT:** “The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) ...for policy and finance, they are the principle planners and administrators. ...(b)...incorporated and constantly active service, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial; oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.”

**8th Step Prayer:** “Higher Power, I ask Your help in making my list of all those I have harmed. I will take responsibility for my mistakes and Be forgiving to others as You are forgiving to me. Grant me the willingness to begin my restitution. This I pray.”

### TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

1. Is my own behavior accurately described by the Traditions? If not, what needs changing?
2. When I chafe about any particular Tradition, do I realize how it affects others?
3. Do I sometimes try to get some reward - even if not money - for my personal AA efforts?
4. Do I try to sound in AA like an expert on alcoholism? On recovery? On medicine? On sociology? On AA itself?. On psychology? On spiritual matters? Or, heaven help me, even on humility?
5. Do I make an effort to understand what AA employees do? What workers in other alcoholism agencies do? Can I distinguish clearly among them?
6. In my own AA life, have I any experiences which illustrate the wisdom of this Tradition?
7. Have I paid enough attention to the book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions? To the pamphlet AA Tradition – How It Developed?

## Spiritual Simplicity Gets It Done.

Practice the Program with Enthusiasm

Rick R. – Miami, Florida

Tackling the alcoholism problem, the wreckage of the past, and trying to be Spiritual at the same time is a large order in the beginning. Most of us are consumed with the trauma left in the wake of a life run by our Egos and flooded with alcohol. We hear a variety of ways to approach the Spiritual way of life and we try to fit it into our A.A. agenda but, still reeling from the wreckage, our effort seemed scattered at best.

If we manage to get a handle on those troubling issues that consume our thinking, it often frees us up to explore the Spiritual aspects of the program at a deeper level. At first, it is not easy to define, or to articulate, the word spiritual but most of us will try to put a face on it based on something we learned in church or something we have heard at an A.A. meeting etc. This is an O.K. Start but it is wise to continue to look for that deeper meaning that is consistent with the spirit of the A.A. program and to practice it in our daily lives. As I research the word spiritual, I find many phrases that could define it such as: In the spirit of, Of the inside, Intangible, not of a physical or material nature, Religious, Psychic, and many more.

I have read most of the publications that have come from the list of A.A. approved literature, and in “Doctor Bob and the Good Old Timers”, it suggests that when the Co-founders had to address the issue of spirituality, they got their inspiration from the book: The Sermon on the Mount, by Emmet Fox. (1938) I have found that book to be exactly what I needed to segue into a way of thinking that covers all the principles that A.A. suggests. It explains that we can live by the Letter of the Law, and still not receive the desired results until we learn to live in the Spirit of the Law. This is my Go-to Guide and I frequently reread it to reinforce my Spiritual understanding. I do not go-it alone. There I come to understand that there’s no such thing as a Selfish Spiritual Principle.

We hear talk of prayer and most of us who have been around awhile have found an approach that works for us. If I pray to God, how does God communicate his message to me? I have never heard a voice that I could confirm to be the voice of God. I do, however, receive inspiration in the form that is more than enough for me, and I have a tremendous amount of faith. They speak of a kind and loving God is he may express himself in our group conscience. That works for me.

The way I have come to explain this concept is as follows: I have sat in on thousands of A.A. meetings and whether I know it or not, my mind is collecting information that I am not even aware of, and storing it away, as in a file cabinet, in those 10 billion brain cells that we are supposed to have in our heads. When I pray for guidance, the search begins in the file system and comes up with the answer intuitively. This file cabinet metaphor is my way of trying to express a sound and solid approach to being open to outside influences without really having to define who or what God is. He speaks in many ways.

Another thing that I believe it does without my personal effort is to Neutralize much of my negative way of thinking. Spirituality is an inside quality. It resides in my mind, my heart, and my conscience. To acquire it I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of the A.A. program as enthusiastically as I could (12&12 page 27) and I might add, Keep it Simple.

**“My job is to achieve enough humility to see myself in others and to accept both myself and others, by identifying. The willingness to make amends will grow from this act of love.”**

**“8-1/2,” Bowling Green, Kentucky, October 1986, Best of the Grapevine, Volume 2.**



**\* \* \* \* \***

## **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.****

## “A Spiritual Overhaul” ... continued from July 2023

### Donald Wood, Ft Myers, Florida

The Keurig Coffee Maker sputtered to completion releasing me from my staring at my friend who had been writing furiously on a pad of paper out on the lanai. The thought came to me how lucky I was to have this friend in my life. I was supposed to be helping this wayward traveler get back on the path of spiritual progress but it dawned on me as I reached for the half-and-half that he was not the only one benefitting from our weekly get-togethers. I was reminded of what a friend of mine in Chicago used to say when asked why he enjoyed sitting down with new guys and going through the Big Book. “For me, explaining the ideas and principles that are the foundation of our program to a newcomer does more than anything else to help me understand them better. So everybody is a winner!” Granted, this was pre-2016, and being a Cubs fan he was forever an optimist but I began to understand what he meant. It was certainly true in my experience.

Back to the task at hand. My friend on the lanai and I had opened the door to the discussion of the age-old riddle of as we go through our day how do we determine whether a thought is God’s will or is it my will. As he continued his writing, I sat across from him and turned my gaze to a row of ducks waddling toward the lake. A perfect line, everyone following mom’s direction, flawlessly disciplined, so unlike us humans. My friend broke the silence. “*How can I best serve Thee - Thy will, not mine, be done.*” He said smiling. I chuckled, “Indeed.”

My friend continued, “The simplicity of the 11th Step is incredible when you look at it. This Step tells me what to do before I go to bed. What to do when I wake up. What to do throughout the day. And what does it say to do throughout the day? ‘*We pause when agitated or doubtful...*’ I have been sitting here writing down what I typically do instead of pausing. Here is what I have got so far. My ‘modus operandi’ when threatened in any way has always been to get angry, to argue, to fight back, and to retaliate. When I get agitated or doubtful, I can also be less confrontational but I still think I have to get in there and work on it. I have to dissect it, figure it out, get to the root of the problem, you know what I mean?”

I nodded my head approvingly, “And Step 11 asks us to not do that. Instead, we are asked to pause and ask our Higher Power for the right thought or action. Another one of those simple but not easy directions, right?” “Exactly,” my friend shot back. “I get it, man,” I responded. “You walk out of your house, you have done your morning routine, or perhaps after you leave a meeting. You’re feeling good. You’re a spiritual giant. You’re walking with Gandhi and the Buddha. Nothing is going to bring you down. It’s all going your way. And then life starts. It’s what happens from the time I walk out my door and I walk back in at night that creates my anxiety, my sense of separation from others, my judgments, my resentments, and my fears. It’s what happens out there. But we now have a set of tools to work with that will enable us to tap into a power greater than ourselves, right?”

“The steps are all about power. The power to get past our drama, our self-imposed suffering, the thinking that we are in control of our lives and can control the lives of those around us. Thinking that we know what is best for us and everyone else. That doesn’t sound too spiritual, does it? Those are the things that block us from our Higher Power. What would happen if we just let go and let this power manifest itself in our lives? Open that channel to allow God’s Power to flow in.” “Not sure I follow you,” my friend said quizzically. “Let the power manifest itself in our life?”

“Well, think back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Step,” I replied. “Remember what the deal was, what I like to call the contract of Step 3. ‘*He provided what we needed if we kept close to Him and performed His work well.*’ After you have completed your morning quiet time, often you feel close to God, right?” “Yes, not all the time if I am being honest but sometimes, for sure.” my friend responded. “OK, so what happens? You are driving to your dentist appointment and the

“A Spiritual Overhaul” ... continued on page 6.

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

lady in front of you in your lane is driving like 20 miles below the speed limit and you can see that she is talking on her mobile phone. Your immediate thought? VIOLATION! She is not following the rules I have established for driving. Later you get to a customer's home and you discover that they have canceled the job after you have driven 45 minutes to get there. VIOLATION! Why didn't they call the office and notify us? See, by your own admission, your default response to these situations is to get agitated so here is where our tools come into play.”

“Yeah, I see where you are going with this,” my friend said. “The 11<sup>th</sup> Step directions are, *‘As we go through the day we pause, when agitated or doubtful, and ask for the right thought or action.’* So that is where we are asking to tap into that power, right?” “Exactly,” I responded. “Watch and then pause when agitated and ask God for the right thought, how I should handle the immediate situation. God, please guide me. You move to the next activity, you feel fear creeping in. Immediately ask God to remove the fear. And so it goes, all day long. I am no longer flying solo. God is working in my life when I ask Him to come in. Of course, that is the tricky part. Remembering to replace my self-sufficiency with dependence on my Higher Power. Letting go and letting God, right?”

My friend smiled. “I hear you, man, but back to what we were talking about earlier. How do I distinguish between what I think is my will versus what is God's will? And these character defects don't seem to be going away especially if I keep looking for them!” My friend laughed. “No, I get it,” I replied. “Here is how I look at it. Essentially, two reminders to start the day. How will I approach this day? What is my attitude going to be?”

I have two choices. My actions and reactions can be based on my will or God's will. I know from experience that if I try to do things my way, this day probably will be...let's call it challenging. If I am in charge, I will be trying to control people and situations. I'll be anxious and impatient, and if the results don't meet my expectations, I'll get frustrated and even angry. If I select what is behind Door #2, I try to align my will with God's will, my day will be successful. Because I trust in God, I'll be more flexible in my expectations of myself, others, and the days unfolding events. It's not as likely that I'll be disappointed and upset when things don't go my way. Adopting this approach, I'll be more comfortable, calm, and serene throughout the day. With God's guidance, my energy can flow into worthwhile actions and positive deeds instead of being squandered in willful pursuits and selfish motives. I see it happen. Today will be a good day if I try to align my will with God's will.”

My friend nodded approvingly. “Unfortunately, not overnight,” as he reached for the Big Book. “Page 87, top paragraph, *‘we find that our thinking will, as time passes, be more and more on the plane of inspiration.’* The key phrase for me is *‘as time passes,’* I want it now!” “Yeah, you and every other alcoholic,” I roared laughing. “That reminds me of a line I heard a speaker say one time, *‘I have to be careful of the messages I get from God because they sometimes are in my own handwriting.’*”

“I think we have to be careful when we start to play the game of what's God's will and what's mine. Not a game, actually. More like a futile exercise. See I believe most of these directions in Steps 10 and 11 center me in on where has my will gotten me that day. I look for my selfishness, my dishonesty, my self-seeking, and my fear. And I think what Doctor Don said at your meeting is true. How we learn about God's will is by learning about what God's will isn't.” My friend nodded his head and looked up, “As I often hear you say, we are all tragically flawed. I don't like the fact that I still have character defects, especially when they hurt other people. It sounds silly but I thought after Step 7, my character defects would disappear.” I smiled at my friend. “No, the way I see it today, our character defects are there to perhaps remind us that we still need God's help – one day at a time.

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

## 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 ??? "**

“We began to see adversity as a God-given opportunity to develop the kind of courage which is born of humility, rather than bravado. Thus we were enabled to accept ourselves, our circumstances, and our fellows.”

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1962,  
“This Matter of Fear”, Best of Bill



### THE BEST OF BILL

Reflections on Faith, Fear, Honesty,  
Humility, and Love

Plus Bill's Classic Essay on Anonymity

**“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**

**Your Group,**

**Please Call Us:**

**Intergroup Office**

**239/262-6535**



## Making Amends is Mending My Ways An Apology is an Acknowledging My Mistakes

Rick R. - Miami, Florida

When describing step nine in the Big Book it says that *"if we are painstaking about this phase of our development we will be amazed before we are halfway through"*, and then it goes on to list the promises. The information in the 12&12 is a lot more direct about the different approaches we could take and tries to encourage us to exercise caution before we rush in and make some major blunders. This suggestion, I think, can't be taken too lightly. I have heard many horror stories about well-meaning people, wanting to put this step behind them, ran to their friends and loved ones and disclosed things that destroyed any trust they may have had in the alcoholic.

*"Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence---these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine"*. (12&12 pg.83) Sometimes we read the headline but fail to read the entire article. If we do this when we go through this step, we can do more damage to our already strained relationships. Making promises, to my close friends and family, that I'm not sure I can keep, usually fall on deaf ears, but an honest recognition of my past mistakes, without going into too many details, at this time, and a sincere determination to give the program my best effort with the understanding that my behavior will be the measure of my success, is a more acceptable approach.

We know that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. After we have put some time between us and our last debacles, we can revisit those amends and go into details about each event, only after we have run it by an experienced and trusted advisor. Rushing into an amend that could bring hardship to our unsuspecting family, or to other third parties, is another mistake that people sometimes make. In Step Nine in the 12&12 it says that *"WE cannot, for example, unload a detailed account of extramarital adventuring upon the shoulders of our unsuspecting wife or husband"*.

I would also include Major financial or work-related amends that may result in losing your job, or create heavy financial difficulties for the family. These should be put off until everyone involved is in agreement, and then, only after talking to someone to make sure that you are not overlooking anything. How about all those relatives and friends that we haven't seen in a while, but still have an uncomfortable feeling about the way we left that relationship? These people only have a snapshot of what we used to be like. They don't see the day-to-day changes that we have made in our lives, and they assume that we are the same as when we made our last major mistake. For this type of situations, I would consider a slow but sincere process of reestablishing contact with those involved. I once suggested that, using the opportunity on Birthdays and Holidays, of sending cards can be a nice way to reestablish contact, with a simple *"been thinking about you, hope things are going well for you, Love....."*

Sending these out at each opportunity for a year or two with no return address, and no expectations, and at some time in the future, you will have to attend a wedding, graduation, or funeral... where you will see them again, and you will be amazed at what will happen. My experience has been that the cards create curiosity and *that* sometimes causes these people to talk to each other and they find out that you are trying hard to mend your ways and it tends to disarm them.

Now, that would be the time to put these things to rest. Keeping in mind that, if I can't add the kicker "I regret what I did, and I don't do that anymore, what can I do to make it right" then maybe I'm not ready to make that amend yet. I hope these ideas will help you to understand, that most amends can be made in a positive way and the results are so much better than we ever could have expected. We must do these things if we hope to develop the serenity and peace that is promised in step nine.

## 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>



“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**



# 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.**

<b>FINANCES</b>	<b>July23</b>	<b>YTD23</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Literature/Merchandise	\$2,332	\$28,928
Group Contributions	3,274	19,614
AA Birthdays	182	387
Faithful Five	20	200
Individual/Anonymous	100	2,850
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b>5,908</b>	<b>51,979</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Bank/Credit Card Fees	203	1,114
Licenses/Permits	-	200
Office Supplies	80	2,674
Office Improve/Repair	-	-
www Hosting	-	-
Payroll	2,154	15,080
Payroll Tax	-	-
Postage	19	49
Printing	-	487
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	1,786	19,634
Insurance	-	-
Rent	500	4,000
Sales Tax	-	2,233
Telephone/www	-	1,693
Utilities	100	800
Computer Equipment	-	-
Computer Software	168	865
Computer/Maintain	-	-
Quarterlies / Travel	-	220
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b>5,020</b>	<b>50,150</b>
<b><u>Net Ordinary Income</u></b>	<b>\$888</b>	<b>\$1,829</b>
Gratitude Dinner		
Other Expenses		
<b><u>NET OTHER INCOME</u></b>		
<b><u>NET INCOME</u></b>	<b>\$888</b>	<b>\$1,829</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-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.....0.....389		
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630.....0.....238		
Bonita Banyan, 176463..... 76.....357		
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....375.....1,375		
Bonita One Day At A Time .....0 .....362		
Bonita Saturday Night.....0.....523		
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....0.....803		
Bonita Unity .....0.....40		
Brown Bag .....0.....924		
Bonita Wed 11thj Step.....0.....40		
Cake Group .....0.....65		
Common Solutions Naples .....0.....1,310		
Daily Reflections ZOOM .....0.....509		
Early Risers .....0.....591		
Easy Does It, 156979......0.....1,000		
Gratitude Hour, 134223..... 0.....69		
Happy Healers .....0.....675		
Jaywalkers, 634271......23.....206		
Keep It Simple, 651598.....0.....726		
Ladies Noon .....0.....75		
Meeting In The Park.....0.....135		
Men Of Naples, 634030......52.....217		
Monday Noon Daily Reflections.....35.....86		
Morning Reflections, 660700......0.....372		
Naples Group .....0.....667		
Naples Living Sober .....0.....20		
Naples Nooners .....2,000.....2,000		
Naples South, 130210......200.....399		

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>JUN23</u>	<u>YTD23</u>
New Dawn, 632504.....477.....896		
Park Shore Women .....300.....300		
Primary Purpose Marco .....477.....2,700		
Park Shore Women .....300.....300		
Primary Purpose Marco .....477.....2,700		
Primary Purpose—Naples .....100.....100		
Swamp Group, 672733 .....51.....101		
Tables Of Naples.....75.....105		
Veranda.....25.....108		
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

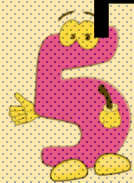
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics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

Susan H., 280-7093  
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**

Ronnie P., 269-8251  
Business meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., 24 Hour Club

**Technology Opportunity.**

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  
Peggy E., 269-7651  
marcoangel2000@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**