

# T H E COURIER

Naples Area Intergroup  
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December 2023

## **BILL W's HOLIDAY GIFT** by Bob S., A.A CLEVELAND

On a bleak November day in 1934, Bill W. was in the process of receiving—albeit unknowingly—a Christmas present beyond his belief. During a visit, an old schoolmate, Ebby T., explained how he had found sobriety via religious ideas of the Oxford Group. Bill was amazed, yet unimpressed. He thought: *“My gin would last longer than his preaching.”* (p. 9 BB.) But it did not! Bill’s curiosity with his friend’s success eventually led Bill to the doors of the alcoholic ward of Towns Hospital a few weeks later. He was released with a full week of sobriety on December 18, just one week before Christmas. He never drank again!



But that was only a beginning! While in the hospital, he had a personality change that altered his modus operandi! He previously had never wanted anything more than to be a rich member of the Wall street crowd, as he was before drinking ruined that high point of his life. However, before leaving the hospital the thought came to him: *“There were thousands of hopeless alcoholics who might be glad to have what had been so freely given to me. Perhaps I could help some of them. They in turn might work with others.”* (p. 14 BB.)

Bill’s real Christmas present was a complete personality change as described by Dr. Carl Jung: *“Ideas, emotions, and attitudes which were once the guiding forces of the lives of these men are suddenly cast to one side, and a completely new set of conceptions and motives begin to dominate the-.”* (p. 27 BB.)

Well, did Bill go back to Wall Street? No, he did not! He went down to Calvary mission and brought home a disheveled, and perhaps not-so-well-smelling, wino to his fancy Brooklyn Heights home and fed him and prayed with him. But the drunk got drunk, again. So, Bill went back, and the same thing happened. Did he give up and go back to Wall Street? No, he did not! He went back to that mission again and again through January, February and March of 1935 and guess what? They all got drunk!

What a personality change! What a wonderful Christmas present! Not just getting sober, but a strong desire to help others. We call this Step Twelve today, but this personality change was not only Bill’s exciting Christmas Present—it is certainly ours, as well!

## **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. (Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc., Reprinted with permission.)



## *Gifts of the Program*

Courage *not* Fear

Faith *not* Despair

Hope *not* Desperation

Peace Of Mind *not* Confusion

Self-Respect *not* Self-Contempt

Real Friendships *not* Loneliness

Self-Confidence *not* Helpfulness

Clean Conscience *not* Guilt

Respect *not* Contempt

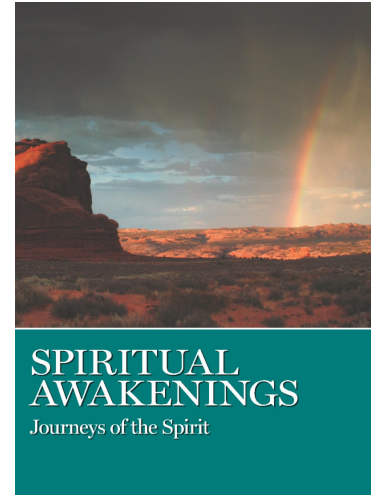
Direction *not* Purposeless

Love and Understanding *not*  
Doubts

Freedom *not* Bondage

“The first 100 members of this Fellowship, who hammered out the Twelve Steps, knew what they were doing. They could have made it two steps or ten steps or twenty-five steps, but they didn't. I don't think they put anything in they didn't think they needed. They were working the whole program, not because they were saints, but because they were drunks who wanted to get well. I have no reason to suppose I'm any less sick than they were; I have no reason to suppose I need any less of the program than they did.”

*Hankins, New York, May 1967, “AA's Steps Lead to*



**Calling all AA**

**Authors !!!**

**Please submit  
an article to**

**The COURIER !!!**

**Email article to:**

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



**Your Home Group's  
Activities**

**Can Be Here  
Next Month.**

**To Highlight  
Your Group,  
Please Call Us:**

**Intergroup Office  
239/262-6535**



## December .. TWELFTH (12th) Month Of Alcoholics Anonymous

**STEP TWELVE:** “Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and practice these principles in all our affairs.”

**TRADITION TWELVE:** “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

**TRADITION TWELVE: (Long Form)** “And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.”

**CONCEPT TWELVE:** “The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action. “

*12th Step Prayer: My spiritual awakening continues to unfold. The help I have received I shall pass on and give to others, Both in and out of the Fellowship. For this opportunity I am grateful. I pray most humbly to continue walking day by day on the road of spiritual progress. I pray for the inner strength and wisdom to practice the principles of this way of life in all I do and say. I need You, my friends, and the program every hour of every day. This is a better way to live.*

### TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

This is a Checklist for Tradition Twelve:  
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1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before individual welfare? What would happen to me if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to my standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is my part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition—or belie it?
7. Do I do all I can do to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a Grapevine subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior—especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made me so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help an other alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?



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

### Donald Wood, Ft Myers, Florida

I sat on my lanai contemplating the almost-perfect weather for mid-December. This time of year, the air has a touch of coolness, especially in the morning, creating a refreshing and comfortable atmosphere. I leaned over to pet our dog Fiona who was perched comfortably on the chair beside me having enjoyed her tasty breakfast treat and sat back again. Christmas was only days away and I caught myself, as I did the night before, reminiscing about the holiday traditions of my earlier years. I felt a sense of nostalgia for the magic and simplicity of those days. I reminded myself that memory is defective, and that we have a tendency to modify past memories to make them more positive than they might have been in the moment. Fair enough I thought when my musing was interrupted by the doorbell. As usual for a Saturday morning, it was my friend from my home group, and seeing his big grin was enough to snap me out of my melancholic moment.

“What do you know, Kris Kringle?” I laughed as he followed me out to the lanai. “Can I get you a cup?” “For sure, my friend. Make it Dunkies or don’t make it at all,” he shot back. As the Keurig brewed I watched as my friend played with Fiona, she had gotten accustomed to his weekly visits and loved a good belly rub which my friend was happy to deliver. “All set for the big day?” I inquired as I stepped out to the lanai, two coffees in tow. “Absolutely,” he replied, “I wrapped that up earlier this week and I am psyched to see the looks on the faces of the kids and my wife when they see what I got them.”

I smiled, “And what about you? What are you getting from Santa this year?” He paused a moment and then replied softly, “You know, I don’t know. This has got to be the first time in my life that I was not thinking about myself, or what I wanted and instead was thinking about everyone else, and what I could get for them.” He continued, much louder, “Wait a minute. What the heck is wrong with me? Have you put some kind of magic spell over me?” “Not me,” I countered, “Maybe the Elf on the Shelf?”

“I might have a clue” I softened. “The other day at a meeting the topic was about how to get through the holidays as a couple of folks suggested that this was a tough time of year. And there was this guy from out of town there, not sure where he was from but he shared that, if you were new, feeling that way was understandable, almost expected. He continued, *‘But if you want next year to be different, start following the directions that are laid out in the Big Book and things will change. It’s never too late for positive change and personal growth but you must take action. Your circumstances may not change but you will,’* he said.

After pausing for a moment, I continued, “It was a little over a year ago when we began getting together and you started to follow those directions. Your circumstances haven’t changed, but you have.”

“Wow,” my friend responded, “I know I am not perfect in my inventory stuff but committing to my morning devotion I think has caused me to look at things differently. Not sure how or why but it is a good thing.” I nodded affirmatively, “A good friend of Bill Wilson and AA, the Reverend Sam Shoemaker, summed it up best when he said, *‘Prayer may not change things for you, but it sure changes you for things.’*” I continued, “Prayer changes one’s character. When such a change takes place, they become a different person, they act differently. That makes sense, doesn’t it?” “Yes, it sure does,” my friend said smiling.

## “A Spiritual Overhaul” ... continued from page 4.

My friend went on, “You know when I was drinking, I hated this time of year, too much pressure and expectations and I thought that drinking would make things better, but it just made it worse. Seeing their dad passed out under the Christmas tree is not the memory I want my kids to have when they look back at their childhood memories of this time of year. When I got sober and looked around I finally saw how blessed I was with my family and the excitement of my kids on Christmas morning. Those things had been there all along, I just never realized how important, how special those things are. Growing up in an alcoholic household not all of my memories of the season are of reindeer and mistletoe. I want to do better for my kids.”

He continued, “Oh, I meant to tell you. The other night my wife and I watched one of those old movies you like.” “Oh yeah? Which one?” I replied. “That one with George Bailey, *It’s a Wonderful Life*.” “Ah, yes,” I replied. “That’s on my schedule this week as well as my other favorite, *A Christmas Carol* with Ebenezer Scrooge. For sure many alcoholics can identify with those guys. Both George and Scrooge undergo a process of transformation and redemption. We do the same as alcoholics as we strive to overcome our struggle with alcoholism. Almost all of the classic Christmas movies, but those two in particular, are about someone who has lost their faith in humankind, the will to live, and then regaining it by being saved by the kindness of others.”

“Isn’t that what is happening to us when we arrive in the rooms of A.A.? We have lost all faith in our ability to resurrect ourselves from our alcoholism and we are saved by a renewal of faith in a Higher Power and the kindness of others. These two movies in particular are powerful stories about regeneration, rehabilitation, and the change in the main character’s attitude and outlook on life. They are both morality plays and redemption stories. You can relate to that, right?” My friend nodded in agreement.

“For many of us, alcoholism had robbed us of our family and friends, and at Christmas time, more than any other time of the year is when loneliness can surround an alcoholic. Just like Scrooge and George Bailey, we have been given a second chance. We came to that fork in the road, we were forced to look at our lives, our past, our present, and where we were headed if we did not change our ways.”

Christmas evokes memories of days past, our childhood, and sometimes a painful reminder of those who are no longer here. The season, the lights, and the music, I think almost force us to revisit those memories and for an alcoholic, not all of those memories are treasured. Perhaps it was the grief of what you didn't have that everyone else had at Christmas, whether it be a loved one or a place to go where you felt wanted. But those are the painful memories that can motivate us to reach out and help people struggling at Christmas so that something good can come out of our experience. It doesn't have to happen in a church basement, or a meeting room, it can be in our families too. An awakening, a reclamation, a redemption – call it what you will.

*‘We have recovered and have been given the power to help others.’* I am sure George Bailey would agree, the A.A. way of life *is a wonderful life!*

**The series “A SPIRITUAL OVERHAUL” has ended with this December chapter.**

**Our “MANY THINKS !!!” to Donald as he continues with a new series in the January 2024 COURIER.**



Naples Area Intergroup  
**BOOKSTORE and GIFT  
SHOP**

**HOLIDAY SHOPPING**

9 to 4 / Monday - Saturday

## **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**

## The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

### Step Study Meetings

Rick R. - Miami, Florida

I consider myself to be one of the fortunate ones that came to Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) in 1969, at the age of 28, desperately looking for answers. The Rehabilitation programs had not gotten off the ground yet, and Drug Addicts did not begin to show up until the mid-1970s. A considerable number of the members of A.A. came there of their own free will, wanting to get sober. The elders of my first group suggest that, if you plan to attend so many meetings a week, one of them should be a Step Study Meeting, and I have been doing that ever since. As we do that, we go through the steps 4 times a year as we split step 12 into two parts due to the number of pages it entails. As new members come into the group they bring with them, their own variety of alcoholic symptoms and it takes time to abandon the things that they feel threatens their own identity. It was not uncommon to see them in the parking lot after the meeting gossiping and bad-mouthing other members that they disagree with, and I was no different than them in my early days of recovery.

About 20 years ago a local group in our community was uprooted from their location and ended up in a new Alano Club at the time and they settled into the Monday through Friday 7 AM slots. The Thursday meeting became a Big Book Study, and the Friday meeting was a Step Study. I was happy to have them so convenient for me. I was much happier when, after we completed Step Twelve, we did not go back to Step One. We went straight into Tradition One and in a short time I noticed how the traditions shined a new light on what Alcoholics Anonymous was all about. On the first page in Tradition One it states *"We believe there isn't a fellowship on earth which lavishes more devoted care upon its individual members; surely there is none which more jealously guards the individual's right to think, talk, and act as he wishes. No A.A. can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled. Our 12 steps to recovery are suggestions; the 12 traditions which guarantee A.A.'s unity contain not a single Don't. They repeatedly say, "We ought..." but never "You must."* WE don't normally hear these things in the everyday meetings.

Each of the Traditions have their own variety of suggestions that, in the interest of unity, add a mature understanding to those that study them and share them with those that have not studied the Traditions.

When I share at a meeting I try to explain, in a way that does not reflect *being in judgement* about any individual. I may discuss Character Defects or Shortcomings and explain the idea that we all have them and for me to point out the faults of others is a *shortcoming, itself*. The person that gets off the beaten path is the person I care about the most. These are all symptoms of Alcoholism, and I am no better than anyone in the program. I may be farther down the path, but No Better. We may hear the term "Love and Tolerance" and try to explain how I include it in my approach to these two words. Scott Peck was influential in the spiritual approach in the program and in his book "The Road Less Traveled" he defines Love, as "Caring for and nurturing another person's soul, and not the version we see up on the movie screen." It is an action word, and I can Love everyone even if they do not love me back.

As for the word "Tolerance," I would change that word to "Acceptance," as they suffer from the same disease that I once suffered from, and I am not superior to anyone in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**How do I know if I'm doing God's will?**

**I don't ... but, I know when I'm not.**

**- GRAPEVINE, February 2002.**

## 12 Step Visit From Saint Nicholas

T'was the night before Christmas When I went on a bender,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a bartender.  
The empties were stacked by the chimney just fine,  
In hopes that St. Nick would fill them with wine.  
With Mama in her kerchief and I with my booze,  
We'd just settled down for a long winter's snooze.  
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I put down my drink to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I crawled and then stumbled  
To open the shutters where I stood and just mumbled.  
Then what to my bloodshot eyes should there appear  
But a miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.

I thought it was DT's and needed help quick!  
I didn't know it was only St. Nick.  
I poured myself another as the reindeer came  
While he shouted and called them by name:

"Now Barfly! Now Wino! Now Boozer and Rummy!  
On Drunkard! On Alky! On Dipso and Dummy!"  
So up to the housetop St. Nicholas flew  
While I pulled the pop-top on another brew.

I trembled with fear when I heard a new sound—  
Down the chimney came St. Nick with a bound.  
His cheeks were like roses, he grinned like a possum,  
His eyes, how they twinkled, his nose had rum-blossoms!

I offered him a drink, step up to the bar,  
"Not today," he said, "I am now so-ber."  
He had a clear face and a little beer belly,  
That shook when he laughed like a bowl  
full of jelly.

This was too much, it increased my thirst.  
"Hold it!" said St. Nick, "First things first.  
You don't have to drink, easy does it,  
Now that wasn't too hard, was it?"

He reached in his sack and with a great fuss  
He gave me the book "Alcoholics Anonymous."  
"Read this 'Big Book' for a life sublime,  
Follow the principles one day at a time.

"This is the best present I can give,  
Twelve steps — a new way to live.  
The AA program keeps me sober, it's true."  
Then giving a nod, up the chimney he flew.

Then I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,  
"You now have a choice, starting tonight.  
So Merry Christmas to all and to all Season's Greetings,  
Don't pick up that first drink, and go to AA meetings!"



## A New Holiday Perspective

Bringing Joy to the Less Fortunate

By Rick R., Miami, Florida

How appropriate it seems that there are twelve months in a year, and we have twelve steps in the program. November is often referred to as the Gratitude month, due to the celebration of Thanksgiving. The joy of good living is the theme of Step Twelve, and it blends right in with the Christmas holiday season in December and ending with the New Year's Eve celebration. This time of year, does bring joy to many of us but it also brings *distress to some of the less fortunate ones* who have yet to be blessed with the gift of sobriety and peace of mind, *in and outside of A.A.*

During my drinking days I used to be extremely uncomfortable about the holidays. I never knew how to act around normal people unless I was half smashed. When invited by one of my siblings to Thanksgiving dinner, I felt like *a charity case* and would rather just hang out at the bar where I felt safe. I never got into the spirit of reaching out to others. My family always celebrated the different holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I would always (due to my discomfort) put a damper on it by complaining about the tacky gifts that people would buy for each other at Christmas and the mad rush to go shopping and the commercializing facade that it had become. Any excuse was better than facing *me* and the miserable wretch I had become.

After being sober for several years it occurred to me that I still had some of those same attitudes, and that I was still holding on to them to some degree largely due to the inconvenience of it all. I explained this problem to a dear friend once, and he asked, "*Does the rest of the family enjoy the holidays?*" I said yes. He then said, "*Why don't you just take a back seat and just watch the joy in their eyes as they experience these things.*" I did exactly what he suggested and when I started to observe my wife and two adolescent girls and *the childlike innocence and happiness it brought to them*; it gave me a whole new appreciation for this time of year. It brought *tears of Joy* to my eyes, and I no longer wanted to be the grouch, putting a damper on the joy that they were having. I have been following this line of thinking ever since and it has changed my whole perspective concerning these things.

This change of attitude has inspired me to apply the unselfish lessons that I have come to understand and now I spend the holiday season filled with Joy. *If it works like that for the holidays, then why can't I bring it with me for the rest of the year?* This has been my mission ever since my friend suggested it, and I am always looking for the opportunity to brighten the lives of people less fortunate than myself. I try to do these things *anonymously and without fanfare*. I also try to consider the discomfort that I used to feel when I was the one on the receiving end of a charitable gesture. I am careful to do these things in a way that *preserves the dignity of that other person*. I do not have to wait for the holidays to do these things. Every day is a holiday in and outside of my home, and you can believe me when I say; I reap more than my share of the joy. I hope this brings a new perspective to those who, like me, had trouble enjoying this time of year and I hope you all have a joyful Holiday Season, and many more.

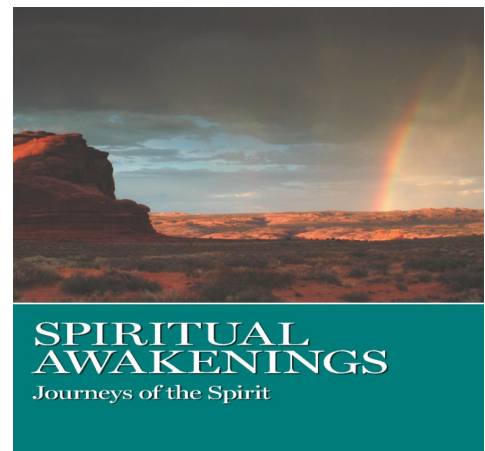
## Twelve Tips for a Sober Joyous Holiday Season

Holiday parties without alcohol may still be a dreary prospect for new AAs. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober. **Here are some tips:**

1. Line up extra AA activities—meetings, speaking, phone answering, other AA service.
2. Entertain AA friends, especially newcomers.
3. Keep AA phone numbers with you at all times—and use them.
4. Find out about special holiday parties, meetings, or other events at groups in our area, and go. If you're shy, take a newer member.
5. Skip drinking occasions you're nervous about. Remember your drinking talent for making excuses? Put it to work for you in sobriety.
6. If you must attend a drinking party, and can't find a fellow AA to come with you, keep some candy handy.
7. You don't have to stay late. Plan for an "important date."
8. Go to church. Any church.
9. Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on reading, letters, walks.
10. Remember, one day at a time. Don't start now to worry about all those silly parties and "holiday temptations."
11. **And, lastly ... if you can't give material gifts this year, you *can* give love !!!**
12. "Having had a ..." You already know the Twelfth Step!-

**"Thank God for all the wonderful people, professional and otherwise, who have helped me or tried to. Even when the help has not succeeded, it has kept me going, kept me trying."**

**New Canaan, Conn., April 1976, "Just Keep On Going", Best of Grapevine, Volume 1**



## Dr. Bob Explains His Understanding of AA Anonymity

“As far as [anonymity](#) was concerned we knew who we were. It wasn’t only AA, but our social life. All of our lives seemed to be spent together. We took people home with us to dry out. The Cleveland group had the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all the members,” said Warren. “In fact, I remember Dr. Bob saying, .....

“If I got up and gave my name as Dr. Bob S., people who needed help would have a hard time getting in touch with me.”

Warren recalled, “He [Dr. Bob] said there were two ways to break the Anonymity Tradition: (1) by giving your name at the public level of press or radio; (2) by being so anonymous that you can’t be reached by other drunks.”

In an article in the February 1969 Grapevine: “Dr. Bob on Tradition Eleven,” Volume 25, Issue 9, D. S. Of San Mateo, California, wrote that Dr. Bob commented on the Eleventh Tradition, “We need always maintain personal anonymity At the level of press, radio and films,” as follows:

“Since our Tradition of Anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English Language that to maintain Anonymity at any other level is definitely a Violation of this Tradition.”

“The AA who hides his identity from his fellow AAs by using only a given name Violates The Tradition just as much as the AA who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matter pertaining to AA.”

“The former is maintaining his anonymity ABOVE the level of press, radio and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity BELOW the level of press, radio and films—whereas the [tradition states](#) that we should maintain our anonymity ‘AT’ the level of press, radio and films.”

Ernie G. of Toledo, commenting on what he saw to be an increase of anonymity within AA today as compared with the old days, said, “I made a lead [trip to bring message] over to Jackson [Michigan] one night, and everybody’s coming up to me and saying, ‘I’m Joe; ‘I’m Pete.’ Then one of the guys said, ‘Safe journey home. If you get into any trouble, give me a buzz.’

Later, I said to the fellow who was with me, ‘You now, suppose we did get into trouble on the way home. How would we tell anyone in AA? We don’t know anyone’s last name.’ They get so doggone carried away with this anonymity that it gets to be a joke.” I had a book [evidently one of the small address books compiled by early members or their wives] with the first hundred names—first and last—telephone numbers, and where they lived.

Dr. Bob’s views on anonymity remained clear in the recollections of Akron’s Joe P. [The Dartmouth grad]. Though it was not the custom in the mid-1940’s to give AA talks to anyone except drunks, Joe noted, a few members formed an unofficial public information committee that started to speak to Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs throughout the state.

*Excerpt from Dr. Bob and The Good Oldtimers, p 264-265*





**YOU ARE INVITED TO  
THE 24 HOUR CLUB ANNUAL**

**CHRISTMAS DINNER  
& SPEAKER MEETING**

**DECEMBER 25  
12:00 PM**

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE IF YOU CAN  
MAIN COURSE AND DRINKS PROVIDED**

**SPEAKER MEETING BEGINS AT 1:00**

**1509 PINE RIDGE RD. NAPLES 34109**

## Twass The Night Before Christmas in the AA Club

**‘Twas the night before Christmas, we were all in the club,  
Enjoying the meeting, instead of the pub;  
The ashtrays were clean and the coffee was made,  
The Big Books were out, and all had prayed.  
When out in the lot, there arose such a clatter,  
We jumped up from the table to see what was the matter.  
The Chair with his Big Book, and I with my smokes,  
Headed outside and found these two blokes.  
They came on inside, and sat at the table;  
Said that they’d chair, as soon as they’re able.  
To start with, they said, “It’s more than not drinking.  
It’s doing your best to fix your wrong thinking.”  
“Think, Think, Think!” and those slogans we used,  
Help keep the newcomer from getting confused.  
Step 1 is a start, they said we should know,  
But after Step 2, we’ll be all aglow.  
We make a decision when we get to Step 3;  
Step 4 is real tough, we all could agree.  
Step 5 is the one where we let it all out,  
After Steps 6 and 7, we’re left with no doubt.  
We get to Step 8, and we make our list;  
And then with Step 9, we have to persist.  
After Step 9, our promises ring true;  
We didn’t just get that, out of the blue.  
After that, it’s on with the rest;  
We must do each day, to be our best.  
They put on their coats and got ready to leave;  
A pretty good end, for this Christmas Eve.  
As to their names, we only could guess;  
I’m pretty sure it was Bill W. and Bob S.  
The two men hopped into a ’35 Ford,  
And as they pulled out, one of them roared:  
“We leave this message, for you our brothers:  
Trust God, clean house, be of service to others.  
And for all of you people, we just want to say:  
Merry Christmas to all and don’t drink today. “**



**CALUSA COAST BID FOR FCYPAA**

*Happy New Year*

**2024**

*The Spark that was to Flare*

**NEW YEARS EVE EVENT**

**Featuring DJ Buck 20**

**Panel Meeting | 50/50 Raffle | Dessert Contest | Food included**

**Attire: Glitter, Sequins, Glitz & Glamor**

**DECEMBER 31, 2023 @ THE 24HR CLUB IN NAPLES, FL**

**DOORS OPEN AT 8:30PM - PANEL MEETING AT 9PM**

**Calusa Coast will be holding a Big Book drive for the Lee County Treatment Committee. Lets start this new year right and help spread the solution to those in need**

**\$15 SUGGESTED DONATION  
\$20 AT THE DOOR**

@CalusaCoastBid



**venmo**



# Living Sober Women's Workshop

Set aside the date for a chance to recharge and reconnect to your recovery through inspirational speakers and small group discussions

Saturday Jan 27th 2024

8:30am-4pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
777 Mooring Line Drive



Sunrise Group  
@sunrisegroupnaples



venmo

To register: Venmo \$25 @ sunrisegroupnaples  
or contact Anne @ macmeesel@yahoo.com for  
payment by personal check

fee includes lunch, drinks & snacks  
Raffle prizes and 50/50 drawing

Number of participants will be limited so register early!

**FINANCES****Nov23** **YTD23****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	\$4,264	\$46,574
Group Contributions	1,881	31,875
AA Birthdays	-	440
Faithful Five	20	260
Individual/Anonymous	70	2,943
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>82,112</b>

**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees	195	2,081
Licenses/Permits	-	200
Office Supplies	137	4,012
Office Improve/Repair	-	-
www Hosting	210	360
Payroll	2,154	23,698
Payroll Tax	-	-
Postage	-	59
Printing	-	668
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	3,647	31,973
Insurance	-	573
Rent	500	6,000
Sales Tax	340	3,638
Telephone/www	392	3,420
Utilities	100	1,200
Computer Equipment	-	2,456
Computer Software	230	1,387
Computer/Maintain	-	130
Quarterlies / Travel		355
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,892</b>	<b>82,662</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-\$1,787</b>	<b>\$497</b>
Gratitude Dinner Tickets	7,735	9,575
Gratitude Expenses	6,766	6,946
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>2,629</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$818</b>	<b>\$2,139</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**

**Treasurer Area 15**  
**PO Box 590835**  
**Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33359**  
**(New Address) (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>Oct23</u>	<u>YTD23</u>
11th Step Prayer & Meditation .....	0	352
Beach Bums .....	0	250
Big Book Comes Alive.....	220	732
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101.....	0	389
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630.....	0	284
Bonita Banyan, 176463.....	0	357
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....	470	1,845
Bonita One Day At A Time .....	0	499
Bonita Saturday Night.....	0	523
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	0	803
Bonita Springs Women's Meeting.....	150	1,680
Bonita Unity .....	0	90
Brown Bag .....	0	1,696
Bonita Wed 11th Step.....	65	343
Cake Group .....	0	105
Common Solutions Naples .....	0	1,548
Daily Reflections ZOOM .....	100	887
District 20 .....	6	2,006
Early Risers .....	0	1,342
Easy Does It, 156979.....	0	3,000
Gratitude Hour, 134223.....	0	69
Happy Healers .....	0	675
Jaywalkers, 634271.....	0	230
Keep It Simple, 651598.....	0	726
Ladies Noon .....	0	75
Living Sober.....	0	257
Meeting In The Park.....	0	135
Men Of Naples, 634030.....	0	265
Monday Noon Daily Reflections.....	0	91
Morning Reflections, 660700.....	171	994
Naples Group .....	0	997
Naples Living Sober .....	0	20

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>Oct23</u>	<u>YTD23</u>
Naples South, 130210.....	0	399
Naples Nooners .....	0	2,000
Naples South, 130210.....	0	399
New Dawn, 632504.....	0	1,288
Park Shore Women .....	0	300
Pay It Forward .....	700	700
Primary Purpose Marco .....	0	2,700
Park Shore Women .....	0	300
Primary Purpose Marco .....	0	2,700
Primary Purpose—Naples .....	0	100
Spiritual Solutions .....	0	125
Swamp Group, 672733 .....	0	101
Tables Of Naples.....	0	105
Veranda.....	0	132
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	0	311
We Care, Bonita, 617011.....	0	151
Where Are We .....	0	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
Bill D.	36 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 D., 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

**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

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

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

**SECOND** Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm

**Area 15; Panel 69**

(South Florida, 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  
Naples Area Intergroup  
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., Caroline H., Carrie W., Chrissie F., Eric S., Faye B., MariAnn Z., Nikki E., Peggy E., Rob O., Tina S. ...  
and loyal substitutes.  
**Service Opportunities**

**After-Hours Phone Volunteers**  
Geoff E., Heather B., Ken H.  
Lauren F., Libby S., Steve K.  
and Tim A.

**Service Opportunity**  
(Thursday evening)