

# T H E COURIER

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



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

January 2024

## Why We Were Chosen - Anonymous

God in His wisdom selected this group of men and women to be purveyors of His goodness. In selecting them through whom to bring about this phenomenon He went not to the proud, the mighty, the famous or the brilliant. He went instead to the humble, to the sick, to the unfortunate. He went right to the drunkard, the so-called weakling of the world. Well might He have said the following words to us:

"Unto your weak and feeble hands I have entrusted a power beyond estimate. To you has been given that which has been denied the most learned of your fellows. Not to scientists or statesmen, not to wives or mothers, not even to my priests or ministers have I given this gift of healing other alcoholics which I entrust to you."

"It must be used unselfishly; it carries with it grave responsibility. No day can be too long; no demands upon your time can be too urgent; no case can be too pitiful; no task too hard; no effort too great. It must be used with tolerance for I have restricted its application to no race, no creed, and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect; lack of appreciation will be common; ridicule will be your lot; your motives will be misjudged. You must be prepared for adversity, for what men call adversity is the ladder you must use to ascend the rungs toward spiritual perfection, and remember, in the exercise of this power I shall not exact from you beyond your capabilities."

"You are not selected because of exceptional talents, and be careful always, if success attends your efforts not to ascribe to personal superiority that to which you can lay claim only by virtue of my gift. If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission, this power would have been entrusted to the physician and scientist.

If I had wanted eloquent men, there would have been many anxious for the assignment, for talk is the easiest used of all talents with which I have endowed mankind. If I had wanted scholarly men, the world is filled with better qualified men than you who would be available.

You were selected because you have been the outcasts of the world and your long experience as drunkards has made or should make you humbly alert to the cries of distress that come from the lonely hearts of alcoholics everywhere."

### 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.)



## January .. The FIRST ( 1st ) Month Of Alcoholics Anonymous

**STEP ONE:** We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.”

**TRADITION ONE:** “Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

**CONCEPT ONE:** “The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.”

*1st Step Prayer:* I admit that I am powerless over my addiction. I admit that my life is unmanageable when I try to control it. Help me this day to understand the true meaning of powerlessness. Remove from me all denial of my addiction.

### TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

1. Am I in my group a healing, mending, integrating person, or am I divisive? What about gossip and taking other members' inventories?
2. Am I a peacemaker? Or do I, with pious preludes such as “just for the sake of discussion,” plunge into argument
3. Am I gentle with those who rub me the wrong way, or am I abrasive?
4. Do I make competitive AA remarks, such as comparing one group with another or contrasting AA in one place with AA another?
5. Do I put down some AA activities as if I were superior for not participating in this or that aspect of
6. Am I informed about AA as a whole? Do I support, in every way I can, AA as a whole, or just the parts I understand and approve of?
7. Am I as considerate of AA members as I want them to be of me?
8. Do I spout platitudes about love while indulging in and secretly justifying behavior that bristles with hostility?
9. Do I go to enough AA meetings or read enough AA literature to really keep in touch?
10. Do I share with AA all of me, the bad and the good, accepting as well as giving the help of fellowship



“As the chaotic world of the drinking alcoholic is replaced by one of stability in sobriety it becomes apparent that plans can be made to encourage positive living. For example: planning holidays, dental appointments and the household budget. We cannot plan that it will be the best holiday ever, that no dental work is required, or that our monetary fortunes will remain the same; that would be projecting. We plan plans, not results.”

October 1992, “Planning, Not Projection”, AA Grapevine



**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**

## Being Honest with Myself

### The Denial Within Me Was Gone

Rick R., Miami, Florida

Years before I came to AA, I was aware that there was something dreadfully wrong with me but not one person ever suggested that I might be an alcoholic or that I should try AA. Perhaps that was due to the denial of the people around me that drank like I did.

Suggesting that I had a problem with alcohol would mean outing themselves and others. Looking back on it now, I feel fortunate that I survived those last few years of failed attempts at life and when I ran out of options, I came to AA looking for answers. The denial within me was gone. My mind was open and for the first time in my life I was *desperate*, and I was *listening*.

At my first AA meeting I was moved by what I heard. It was different than anything I had experienced before. The people were *being honest and candid about things that only brought shame and guilt to me in the past*. I felt safe for the first time in my life and could discuss those things openly, that had been taboo up until then. Prior to that, everything in my life was a façade.

At that moment On October 15, 1969, my *perception* of the world had changed; and, I have not wanted a drink since. Call it a *Spiritual Awakening* if you like, and it was for me; but, it came in the form of a *Profound Change in Perception*. In appendices 2, in the Big Book, (Alcoholics Anonymous) it describes a man who had "*undergone a profound alteration in his reaction to life*". I began to question all the decisions I had made in the past, and how the residue of those decisions had tarnished and eroded any chance of a successful, happy life.

I became aware that the *values system* that I had learned as a child, at church and at the Boy Scout meetings etc. was lost in the dust and was *replaced with guilt and shame*. I was in trouble when I violated *my own value system*. I now realize that I was not a bad kid, but I was a child that was not strong enough to do the things I knew to be right. The more I broke the rules, the easier it became; and, *moral standards were meaningless*. Soon drinking was the only thing that eased my conscience. When that quit working for me, I found myself at the door of AA.

Once I had that *change of perception*, I knew what to do. It may be as simple as "trying to stop doing the things that I regret" but the key to it all is "*Being honest with myself;*" and, never going back to my old way of thinking. I said that I was fortunate to have survived those last few years of drinking and that I came to AA looking for answers. Being desperate enough to ask for help was the most important part of that experience. I do not believe that anyone could have convinced me to stop drinking against my will. I may have stayed dry long enough to get the heat off; but, I doubt that I would have *surrendered to the degree necessary to have that change of perception and therefore no spiritual awakening*.

Getting off in the right direction from the start was especially important to any success I have had in AA. I know that I only live once, and *I do not want to waste one moment of the precious life God gave me*. Today, as I continue to practice all the things I have learned in the Program, it has resulted in a peace of mind that was unimaginable when I first walked through the doors of AA; and, for that, I am extremely grateful.

# AA Volunteer Opportunities



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 A.A. Moon Shot

### I Admired Her Courage

Rick R., Miami, Florida

I got sober on October 15, 1969, at a time when the Space programs were on the Television in black and white and I was up deep into the nights watching as it happened. About twenty years later I in a meeting when I heard a very young, very sincere, single mother of two, sharing that her first experience in the AA program was the thought of having to do all this stuff for the rest of her life and she didn't find it too comforting. (Her words) It sounded to me that, from her perspective, she knew that she had to do it, but it wasn't going to be easy or fun. I admired her for her courage and conviction, and I tried to encourage her by explaining things that I had experienced when I was faced with the life changing challenges of sobriety. I was a father of a boy, I was in the Navy at the time, and I was divorced. It was a difficult time, but I had to go through it, drinking or not. I likened it to the first Apollo Space Mission to the moon. It goes something like this.

When you first see the size of the spacecraft and consider the amount of energy it would take to put it into space, it is hard to fathom. After the countdown is complete, the engines fire and a tremendous amount of flames and smoke engulf the entire area and, in a few moments, it slowly starts to lift off. As it lumbers its first hundred feet, it is expending a tremendous amount of fuel. Slowly it starts to gain momentum and pick up speed, still shuddering along. Soon the booster tanks are depleted, and they are ejected, and the main tanks begin to propel it further along the flight path with even more thrust as it is reaching for orbit. Next, the main tank is depleted just before orbit and is ejected. What is left is a very small portion of what arose from the launchpad. Soon the craft leaves orbit and heads towards the moon and something else happens that sometimes goes unnoticed. Somewhere between the earth and the moon, the gravitational pull of the moon has more influence on the craft than the gravity of the earths has, and it is gently drawn along its path. Very little energy is except for minor course corrections.

In Alcoholics Anonymous, when we first get started, it appears to be an insurmountable task that requires a tremendous amount of effort just to get off the launchpad. Not every launch is successful and some of us don't make it the first time, and we need to exert all that energy on each successful attempt. As we do get our way, it starts to get easier as we head for our objective. When we go through the twelve steps, we finally reach orbit.

After we are satisfied that everything is in order, we can now set out for the moon. If we stay on course, the spiritual gravity of values we have adopted in the AA program will far outweigh the negative gravity of the past as we eject all the dead weight that held us down. As we continue to adjust to the day-to-day mistakes that we make and adopt an unselfish approach to life, somewhere along the flight path, we will cross that line where we are drawn towards a life and serenity that is hard to imagine when we are setting on the launchpad. The most important part of the journey is the lift off. If we can get through that most difficult time, it does get easier, and then we need only to stay the course.

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

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

**- GRAPEVINE, February 2002.**



**Step One** was a stumbling block for me. For years it kept me in the A.A. revolving door that some of us must experience before "we get it." Although I mouthed the words, "I'm an alcoholic." in



those early meetings, deep within my gut, I just didn't accept the concept. Comparison played a big part in my denial. I had not gotten a DUI, lost a job over drinking, lost my family or developed health problems. I just drank!. Another ploy was justification. I drank to relax or unwind from all the stress in my life. My life was manageable with a little wine. Others that I met in A.A. seemed to drink all the time and without much justification. Since I came to A.A. without a nudge from anyone, I also rationalized that I probably wasn't an alcoholic. But I did worry about my drinking which is why I kept coming back periodically. My disease gradually progressed just like the Big Book says. Thank God I was finally able to put aside all the comparison, justification and rationalizing and accept my alcoholism. My life as a member of A.A. just keeps getting better, due to this priceless program. Yes, I'm an alcoholic, and I'm so glad that I finally got it.

Anonymous, Long Beach, CA

**Tradition one** If you have been around Alcoholics Anonymous for a short time, this can appear as a scary proposition. I imagined that my life depended on the people in A.A.? Paleeese! After all, A.A. is NOT the bedrock of



mental health! In actuality, it is the most factual statement one can make about our program. My life depends on those who are new and on those who sober for . I must be a part of. How would a newcomer ever learn what is available unless we show them? If we don't show the newcomer the A.A. way, who will? We are in the proverbial life-boat together. This is way better than the life I lived before I came to A.A. I was a lone ranger having to do everything myself, and with an attitude of "you can't make me - I already know how to do it." Mine appeared to be a terminal case. However, I had sponsors who were willing to tell me what is so - in other words here is the truth, the heck with your feelings. The Traditions are rock solid because they are woven together. We MUST always be WE.

W.W., Los Angeles



## From AA's Past

Bill W. died on Sunday, January 24, 1971, at 11:30, at the Miami Heart Institute, Miami, Florida, after a long illness. He had been treated for emphysema since 1986. At his death he was 75 years old. After a private funeral service, burial was in East Dorset, VT, where he was born on November 26, 1895. These arrangements followed Bill's wishes. A.A. memorial meetings February 14, 1971, honoring Bill's work as cofounder of Alcoholic Anonymous, author of basic AA books, and chief architect and articulator of the Fellowship's principles. was at the Spiritual Meeting Hall, Miami Beach, which closed the 35th Anniversary International Convention—the 5th in AA's history. Bill had gone to Florida anticipating a full speaking schedule, but virus pneumonia necessitated a short hospitalization, and physicians allowed him only the one token convention appearance. That Sunday morning, the tall, slender and somewhat weary white-haired man was wearing a bright orange-colored jacket as a salute to the AA's of his host state. As he pulled himself to his feet, a throng of 11,000 men, women, and children jumped to their feet applauding and cheering. Many wept



(from Box 459, Vol 16, No 2 Memorial Issue, January, 1971) Source: Bill C., Orchard Park Group, New Frontiers, Jan 2016



If we are planning to stop drinking, there must be no reservation of any kind, nor any lurking notion that someday we will be immune to alcohol.

**Alcoholics Anonymous, Page 3**





**"We should always realize that change does not necessarily spell progress. We are sure that each new group of workers in world service will be tempted to try all sorts of innovations that may often produce little more than a painful repetition of earlier mistakes ... And if mistaken departures are nevertheless made, these Concepts may then provide a ready means of safe return to an operating balance that might otherwise take years of floundering to rediscover."**

**AA Co-Founder, Bill W., published in Grapevine September 1990, "The Twelve Concepts", AA Grapevine.**

**"My drinking career was all about running away. I could pack up and vanish in a flash. Now ... I'm taking the risk to stick around, to just show up and see what happens."**

**New York, N.Y., May 1997, From: "At Home in a Home Group", Beginner's Book**



**BEGINNERS'  
BOOK**

Getting and Staying Sober in AA

## 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*



# 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



To register: Venmo \$25 @ sunrisegroupnaples  
or contact Anne at macmeese1@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****Dec23** **YTD23****Income**

Literature/Merchandise	\$3,856	\$50,429
Group Contributions	3,096	34,971
AA Birthdays	-	440
Faithful Five	20	300
Individual/Anonymous	385	3,328
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>7,357</b>	<b>89,468</b>

**Expenses**

Bank/Credit Card Fees	110	2,161
Licenses/Permits	-	200
Office Supplies	1,500	5,512
Office Improve/Repair	-	-
www Hosting	210	360
Payroll	2,154	23,698
Payroll Tax	-	-
Postage	19	78
Printing	-	668
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	315	32,288
Insurance	-	573
Rent	500	6,500
Sales Tax	294	3,933
Telephone/www	208	4,199
Utilities	100	1,3
Computer Equipment	289	2,745
Computer Software	294	1,681
Computer/Maintain	-	130
Quarterlies / Travel		355
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,784</b>	<b>88,385</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$1,574</b>	<b>\$1,83</b>
Gratitude Dinner Tickets	-	9,575
Gratitude Expenses	-	6,946
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,629</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,574</b>	<b>\$3,712</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>Dec23</u>	<u>YTD23</u>
11th Step Prayer & Meditation .....	0	352
Beach Bums .....	350	600
Big Book Comes Alive.....	0	732
Big Book Steppers, Bonita, 698101.....	24	231
Big Book Steppers, Naples, 654630.....	0	284
Bonita Banyan, 176463.....	0	357
Bonita Happy Hour, 670997.....	0	1,845
Bonita One Day At A Time .....	0	499
Bonita Saturday Night.....	405	658
Bonita Springs Morning, 678493.....	0	803
Bonita Springs Women's Meeting.....	0	1,680
Bonita Ladies Night .....	75	75
Bonita Unity .....	0	90
Brown Bag .....	0	1,696
Bonita Wed 11th Step.....	0	343
Cake Group .....	0	105
Common Solutions Naples .....	591	2,140
Daily Reflections ZOOM .....	0	887
District 20 .....	0	2,006
Early Risers .....	344	1,686
Easy Does It, 156979.....	0	3,000
Gratitude Hour, 134223.....	0	69
Happy Healers .....	0	675
Jaywalkers, 634271.....	0	230
Keep It Simple, 651598.....	364	1,090
Ladies Noon .....	0	75
Living Sober.....	0	257
Meeting In The Park.....	122	257
Men Of Naples, 634030.....	19	284
Monday Noon Daily Reflections.....	10	101
Morning Reflections, 660700.....	0	997
Naples Group .....	0	997

<u>Group/Meeting</u>	<u>Dec23</u>	<u>YTD23</u>
Naples Living Sober .....	0	20
Naples South, 130210.....	0	399
Naples Nooners .....	0	2,000
Naples South, 130210.....	0	399
New Dawn, 632504.....	0	1,288
New Serenity .....	500	500
Park Shore Women .....	0	300
Pay It Forward .....	0	700
Primary Purpose Naples.....	100	200
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.....	5	132
Wanderers, Ave Maria.....	31	342
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

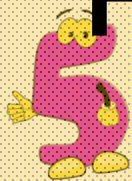
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics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

**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)

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

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chair@area15aa.org

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**Secretary:** Bronwyn F.  
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**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., Tim A. and Tina S.  
**Service Opportunity (Thursday evening)**

**At our January 10, 2024 NAPLES AREA INTERGROUP MEETING, our Intergroup members requested that we include the attached transmittal letter and questionnaire regarding AA Conference Approved Literature. Please take the time to read and respond to the request for input to the GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE LITERATURE COMMITTEE.**

**Please read, and respond to the questions as you and your home groups determine appropriate**  
**NAPLES AREA INTERGROUP OFFICE, Naples, Florida**



South Florida Area 15 General Service

Hello and holiday greetings! I hope this finds you well and enjoying the season.

The attached document from our Trustees Literature Committee is intended to get the conversations going about possible future changes. How to stay relevant vs. preserving the founder's writings. The questions here are intended to start the sharing and discussions, not to limit you in any way. You are encouraged to take the discussion where it leads you.

Please discuss among your fellow alcoholics, and I will provide a way to collect your ideas and comments. I am considering an online meeting after our assembly depending on the participation. It was intended that we share our area's ideas at the conference next year. As always, feel free to email, call or txt.

Thank you! and thank you for all you do!

Cary W  
Delegate Area 15/Panel 73  
South Florida, Bahamas, US and British Virgin Islands,  
Antigua, St Maarten and Cayman Islands  
Trustees Committee  
863-840-0061

Alcoholics  
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Please direct all  
communications to:  
P.O. Box 459  
Grand Central Station  
New York, NY 10163  
Fax: (212) 870-3003

November 13, 2023

Dear Trusted Servants:

A.A.'s Co-Founder, Bill W., in his 1953 address to the General Service Conference, stated that he did not consider himself the author of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Big Book (*Our Great Responsibility*, p. 92). He also alluded to the fact that in the various A.A. literature published prior to his passing, he borrowed heavily from other sources, and that other A.A. members made significant contributions.

On the other hand, addressing the historical context of some of the writings of our Founders, many members in our Fellowship have expressed strong sentiment against any changes in the first 164 pages of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, the Big Book, as well as the Preface, the Forewords, The Doctor's Opinion, Doctor Bob's Nightmare, and the Appendices. In fact, as early as 1995 and most recently in 2022, Advisory Actions designed to protect the above-referenced contents have been passed by the General Service Conference.

In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference suggesting that trustees' Literature Committee *seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s Founders*, the trustees' Literature committee agreed it would be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship regarding this topic.

We would like to hear from you – the top of the triangle! While we hope that the suggested questions will help to spark thoughtful sharing and discussion, please feel free to add questions that we may not have thought of that you feel may best inform the discussion. Most of all, we are grateful for and thank you for your participation.

In fellowship,

The trustees' Literature Committee (2023-2024)

Attachment: Suggested Questions



**HOW SHOULD WE TREAT A.A. FOUNDERS' WRITINGS**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you think that A.A. Founders would object to or embrace revisions to their writings? If yes, why? If not, why?
2. Do you think the Founders' writings are effective in reaching new members? If not, what measures do you think can be taken to resolve this issue?
3. What reasons would you consider for changing our Founders' writings?
4. How do you feel about changing A.A. Founders' writings to replace outdated references?
5. What suggestions do you have for preserving the Founders' writings, along with keeping pace with our current A.A. Society and its future?
6. Should there be a special Conference process for approval of changes to our Founders' writings? (e.g., super, or qualified majority – 75%, and/or 2-year consideration process.)
7. What additional ideas, thoughts or suggestions can you share about changing or not changing the Founders' writings?

Note: Please be as concise as possible in your responses to the questions.

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