

# THE COURIER

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



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

February 2026

## God of my understanding ... Excerpts from editorial by Bill W, AA Grapevine, January 1948

**Sooner or later, every AAer comes to depend upon a Power greater than himself. He finds that the God of his understanding is not only a source of strength, but also a source of positive direction .....**

Every AA group follows this same cycle of development. We are coming to realize that each group, as well as each individual, is a special entity, not quite like any other. Though AA groups are basically the same, each group does have its own special atmosphere, its own peculiar state of development. We believe that every AA group has a conscience. It is the collective conscience of its own membership. Daily experience informs and instructs his conscience. The group begins to recognize its own defects of character and, one by one, these are removed or lessened. As this process continues, the group becomes better able to receive right direction for its own affairs. Trial and error produces group experience and out of corrected experience comes custom. When a customary way of doing things is definitely proved to be best, then that custom forms into AA Tradition. The Greater Power is then working through a clear group conscience.

**We humbly hope and believe that our growing AA Tradition will prove to be the will of God for us.** Many people are coming to think that Alcoholics Anonymous is, to some extent, a new form of human society. ...Despite the fact that we do veer off at times on tangents, we are becoming more able to depend absolutely on the long-term stability of the AA group itself. With respect to its own affairs, the collective conscience of the group will, given time, almost surely demonstrate its perfect dependability. The group conscience will, in the end, prove a far more infallible guide for group affairs than the decision of any individual member, however good or wise he may be. This is a striking and almost unbelievable fact about Alcoholics Anonymous. Hence we can safely dispense with those exhortations and punishments seemingly so necessary to other societies. And we need not depend overmuch on inspired leaders. Because our active leadership of service can be truly rotating, we enjoy a kind of democracy rarely possible elsewhere. In this respect, we may be, to a large degree, unique.

**Therefore, we of Alcoholics Anonymous are certain that there is but one ultimate authority, "a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience."**

Excerpts from editorial by Bill W., A.A. Grapevine, January 1948

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PREAMBLE:

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or Institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. (AA Grapevine, Inc.)



## FEBRUARY ... The Second Month Of Alcoholics Anonymous

**STEP TWO:** “Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

**TRADITION TWO:** “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

**TRADITION TWO (long form) :** “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.”

**CONCEPT TWO :** “The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.”

*2nd Step Prayer: I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity. I humbly ask that you remove all twisted thought & Addictive behavior from me this day. Heal my spirit & restore in me a clear mind.*

### TRADITIONS—CHECKLIST

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

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? New comers? Old-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

## What is Sponsorship?

Lisa F., Red Bank, New Jersey

Over the years, it appears the definition of sponsorship has changed to include many aspects not originally intended at its conception. In the beginning of AA in Akron, Ohio, an alcoholic needed to be sponsored by a recovering alcoholic to be admitted for treatment at St. Thomas Hospital by Sister Ignatia Gavin. Sister Ignatia, a pioneer in the understanding, and thus, advocacy that alcoholism needed to be treated medically, was in charge of admissions at the hospital. With the assistance of Dr. Bob, she would admit the first alcoholic patient to St. Thomas under the medical diagnosis of acute gastritis in 1935. The sponsor's responsibility at this time, was to be present when the patient was admitted and discharged, visit regularly, bring the individual home, and then, to an AA meeting. In their work with the sponsored, sponsors answered questions about the steps and the program and offered guidance and support in the early days of recovery. (Living Sober)

Interestingly, there is nothing written about sponsorship in the Big Book, which was published in 1939. It would not be until 1944 that the topic was addressed by Charles H. Snyder. In his *A.A. Sponsorship Pamphlet*, Snyder outlined the responsibilities and duties of sponsors and the rewards for AA members in carrying the message, the primary reward, insurance against picking up a drink. Once the prospect was determined to have a drinking problem, had self-awareness of his malady and a desire for help, the sponsor would "present" the AA plan to the man or woman. The plan consisted of assessing if the prospect needed hospitalization, identify oneself as an alcoholic, tell their story, elaborate on the success of AA and the rewards associated with living a sober life. The sponsor would then stress the value of reading the Big Book, share the "qualities" attributed to AA success, introduce the concept of faith, listen to the prospect's story, bring her or him to meetings and meet with the family to acquaint them with AA's "principles and objectives". The sponsor also needed to make sure they had the availability and time to work with the prospect. Lastly, it was suggested the sponsor consult with older members when needing advice or when the assistance of a co-sponsor would be of benefit.

When examining current AA literature on the topic of sponsorship, carrying the message through personal reflection and sharing is stressed again. According to the pamphlet *Questions & Answers on Sponsorship*, a sponsor gives support, makes introductions to fellow AAs, answers questions and offers empathy and friendship through the early journey of sobriety. The pamphlet also details what a sponsor is not, a professional in the areas of marriage, law, finance and social work. Additionally stated, the sponsor needs to refrain from imparting their personal views on the sponsored. It is interesting to note, within all the AA literature on sponsors, there is only mention of working with newcomers, it may seem, like so many elements, the length of time one is sponsored has been

Continued on page 4.

## What is Sponsorship ? ... continued from page 3.

modified over the ages. One may want to ask, with all these guidelines in place, how could the definition of what a sponsor is, change so dramatically from its inception?

A person does not need to listen long in the rooms of AA, to hear tales of how sponsors may be overstepping their roles. Whether a member shares of exercises their sponsor insists they do, advice given on relationships, employment, education and living arrangements, it is clear, these are not the responsibilities defined in AA literature. Perhaps the problem is two sided, comprised of ego and dependency. The sponsor, assigned "expert" in achieving and maintaining sobriety, may encounter a temporary lapse in humility, which leads to feeling qualified to impart knowledge and advice in all aspects of the person's life. The sponsored, brimming with gratitude and awe for the person who has helped them attain sobriety, may put the sponsor on a pedestal, believing they possess all the worldly knowledge and advice they will ever need.

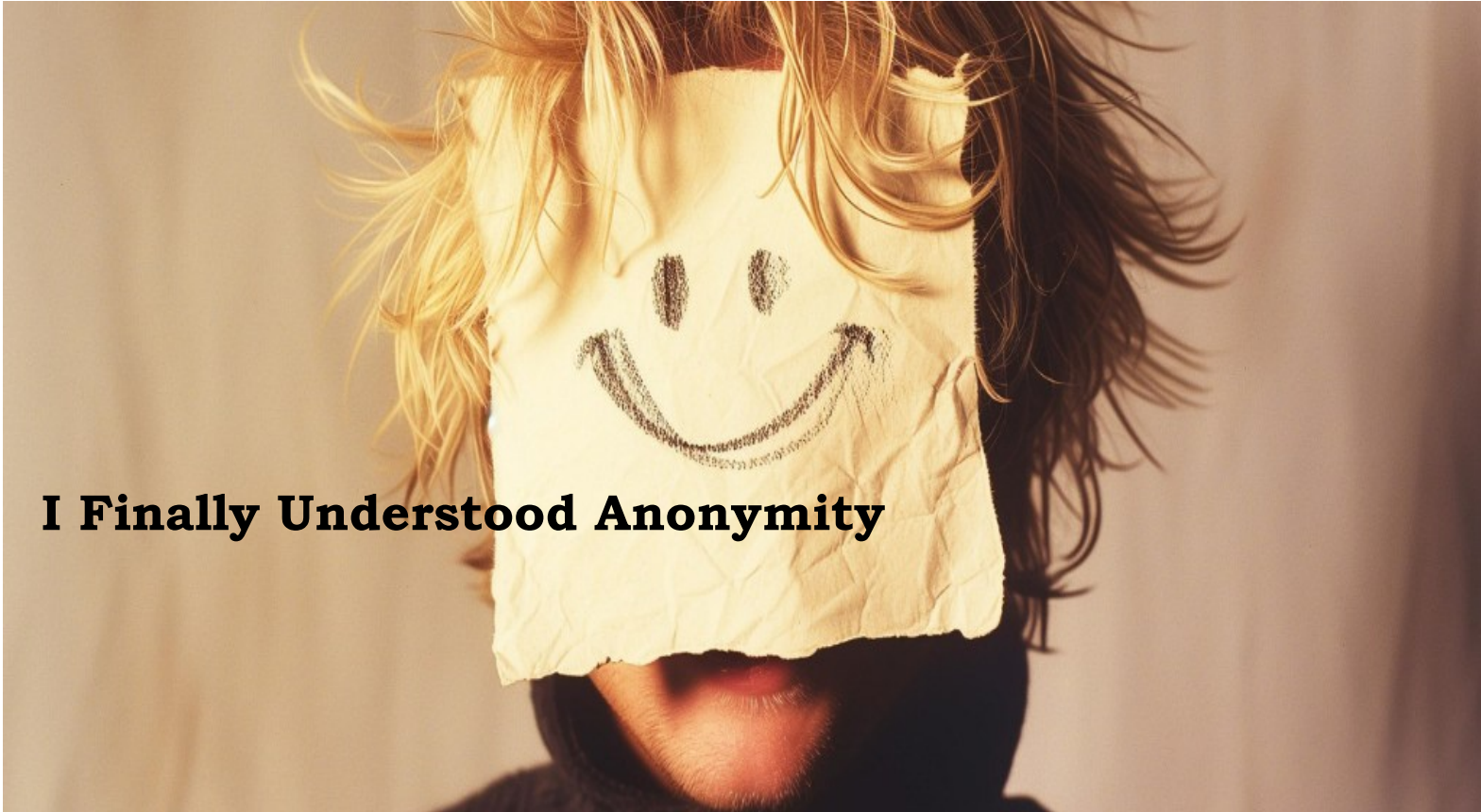
Whatever dynamics are responsible for the misconception of sponsorship, the results may often lead to resentment, wrong choices, stagnation of emotional maturity, and, most devastating, a newcomer feeling overwhelmed and leaving the rooms. In carrying the message, we must be careful not to impart our will upon others as we offer a lifeline out of the despairs of alcoholism. Lasting, enduring and working relationships are born out of compassion, reciprocity, trust and respect. By ensuring these components are always present, possibilities for personal and spiritual growth will strive for the "GREATER GOOD" of all who are working together in ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Introduction to *THE LORD's PRAYER* *when closing a meeting.*

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.**



## **I Finally Understood Anonymity**

**I've never been called the brightest bulb in the pack. So, imagine my surprise when, after years of being in the program, I was presented with a deeper rationale for anonymity that was so much more compelling that I immediately took to it.**

**My initial understanding of anonymity was the commonsense understanding – the old “quid pro- quo.” I wouldn't want anyone blabbing to my boss, in-laws, or neighbors that I was secretly the town drunk. So, I easily understood that I, in return, should keep my trap shut and not disclose who I saw or what I heard. Easy-peasy.**

**Then came the lightning bolt. I was at an AA conference where there was a possibility that professional athletes or Hollywood stars or big name businesspeople might be in attendance and that they might not want their anonymity blown ('natch).**

**What blew me away was this new reason why I shouldn't name drop. Protecting their anonymity was an act of humility for me! Back home in Cleveland, instead of puffing out my chest and coyly saying, “Oh, you know, so and so was there,” I should realize that my motive would be, once again, “aren't I special?” I would be strutting around trying to draw attention to me (once again) – how cool I was for rubbing shoulders with so and so. For the first time I was seeing that practicing anonymity was an act of humility on my part. Yes, I could still act on the old commonsense understanding, but here was a profoundly spiritual reason not to break someone's anonymity – deflation of my own insatiable ego.**

**I am forever grateful for this lesson which reminds me to regularly examine my motives.**

**– Paul R., Alcoholics Anonymous Cleveland Office**

**“Sometimes we register surprise, shock, and anger when people find fault with AA. We are apt to be disturbed to such an extent that we cannot benefit from constructive criticism. This sort of resentment makes no friends and achieves no constructive purpose. Certainly, this is an area in which we can improve.”**

**AA Co-Founder, Bill W., July 1965, “Responsibility Is Our Theme”, The Language of the Heart**



## THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

Bill W.'s  
Grapevine Writings



**“You never know until you go out to meet it what any given day is going to be, but the way you go to meet it surely makes a difference.”**

**“The Christmas Fighters,”  
Quogue, N.Y., December 1963,  
AA Grapevine**

## Are you Spiritually Fit?

Donald W. - Fort Myers, Florida

OK, so you have been a member of our fellowship for a while, and you are grateful for the gifts that you have received as a result of your sobriety. Your step work with your sponsor has led to remarkable changes in your life. Steps 2 and 3 have enabled you to open the door to a new relationship with your Higher Power. Steps 4, 5, 6 and 7 have given you a new understanding of yourself. And Steps 8 and 9 provide you with a way to get right with the people that you have harmed in the past.

You are cruising along on the Sea of Serenity, not a cloud in the sky ... isn't life grand? You probably can't remember the last time you even thought about taking a drink, right? As they tell us in the book on page 84, "*We will seldom be interested in liquor. If tempted, we recoil from it as from a hot flame.*" Exactly! I am good to go! Oh, wait. There is that last sentence in that paragraph, "*That is how we react so long as we keep in fit spiritual condition.*"

Truth be told, perhaps we are not as committed to the daily maintenance of our spiritual condition as perhaps we once were when "we needed it". Resting on our laurels perhaps? No matter how long ago alcohol was removed from your life, maybe it is time for a "check-up" of your spiritual fitness. It is probably not necessary to Google it; let's just go with the tools that are available in our Big Book. Specifically, let's reference what the book calls the "Bedevilments" on page 52, and then we will move to what is often called "The Promises" starting on page 83.

Let's start with the bedevilments. A dictionary definition of the word 'bedevil' is, "*To torment or harass maliciously or diabolically, as with doubts, distractions, or worries.*" This paragraph on page 52 of the Big Book is a description of one who at this point is in grips of alcoholism, and not by any stretch of the term, spiritually fit. A wise sponsor may suggest that turning statements found in the text into questions is a useful way starting point in discovering your truth. When we do that, here is what it looks like:

Am I having trouble with personal relationships?

Am I unable to control my emotional nature?

Am I prey to misery?

Am I prey to depression?

Am I having trouble making a living?

Do I have a feeling of uselessness?

Am I full of fear?

Am I unhappy?

Am I unable to be of real help to other people?

For the bedevilments, to affirm that these afflictions presently exist is a sign that we might be in trouble. We thought they had been eliminated for good and all but now the presence of one or some of these conditions is like the check engine light appearing on your dashboard - it is possible that it could be a temporary condition or it could be something that requires attention sooner rather than later. Typically, if we are serious

Continued page 8.

## Are you Spiritually Fit? ... continued from page 7.

about our effort, our replies will need to go a bit deeper than just a “yes” or a “no”, particularly if our responses fall more along the lines of “kind of” or “maybe” or “sometimes” or “can you repeat the question?” For some reason, as you may have heard, putting a pen to paper is magical when it comes to self examination. Don’t be shy, this exercise is about your favorite subject – YOU. The deeper you go, the more effort and thought you put into it, the more worthwhile the exercise will be for you.

**Now let’s shift to the other end of the spectrum, “The Promises” on page 83.** I view this paragraph as a description of someone who has had a spiritual experience / awakening. What a dramatic alteration from the emotional state of one who was drowning in the desperation of the bedevilments to a life of happiness, peace, and usefulness to others! This transformation comes about by following the directions in the chapters “How It Works” and “Into Action”.

Again, we will apply that same formula of taking statements and turning them into questions when looking at these statements:

Today, do I feel a new freedom and a new happiness in my life?

Do I not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it?

Do I comprehend the word serenity, and do I have peace in my life?

Do I now see how my experience in life can benefit others?

Has that feeling of uselessness and self-pity disappeared in my life?

Have I lost interest in selfish things and gained an interest in others?

Has self-seeking will slipped away from me?

Has my whole attitude and outlook on life changed?

Has your fear of people and economic insecurity left you?

Do you know intuitively know how to handle situations that used to baffle you?

Have you begun to realize that God is doing for you what you could not do for yourself?

Unlike the earlier bedevilments, if the promises ARE NOT manifesting themselves in your life, why not? “At some point, I did feel like they were coming true in my life but I don’t know about now, maybe I was too optimistic or I was on that pink cloud that people talk about.” Do you think that they are unrealistic? Perhaps you feel that you now have reached the objective that you set when you arrived in the rooms of AA – freedom from alcohol, and that is good enough?

**Is it possible that at this present time, you may not be as spiritually fit as you thought?**

**“I believe anyone can be helped if they have an honest desire to stop drinking. I’m living proof.”**

**“Ripped Jeans and Threadbare High-Tops,” The Pas, Manitoba, July 1999, In Our Own Words: Stories of Young AAs in Recovery**



**IN OUR OWN WORDS**  
Stories of Young AAs in Recovery



**“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 of Bill1962, “This Matter of Fear”, Best**

**THE BEST OF BILL**

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

Plus Bill’s Classic Essay on Anonymity

## I Did Not Fit In

**Rick R., San Diego, Calif**

When I look back on my experience, after going through my pre drinking years, my drinking years, and my sober years in the AA program, it is not hard to see what a troubled individual I was.

In my days from birth to the day I entered grammar school, I was unaware of the dysfunction in my immediate environment and with the absence of supervision, discipline, and role models, I did anything I wanted to do, and my behavior became dishonest, selfish, and shameful, as I later learned. On my first day of parochial school, the world came

apart for me when I looked around the classroom

and realized that I did not fit in. All the other kids were having fun and enjoying that experience and I was terrified and knew that I could never live up to what was expected of me at that time.

As a result, I developed fears and inhibitions that those other kids did not seem to have. I learned right from wrong in church, but was much too insecure to do what was right. I learned to cut corners, lie, and cheat, since I had no confidence that I could ever keep up with my peers.

I began to overcompensate and to act out to make up for my short falls, but it never worked for me. Fist fighting became a regular event. This all went on till I turned thirteen and found the answer to all my problems.

I had access to alcohol, and I did not recognize it at first, but it immediately removed all those fears and inhibitions. And, for the first time in my life, I felt normal and that I was as good as anyone and better than most, so I thought.

I continued to drink to feel good but when I awoke in the morning, I was more terrified than before and all I had to do was to take that first drink and everything was right with the world again.

I continued this pattern until I was twenty-eight years old when I woke up one morning to face The Hideous Four Horsemen, Terror, Bewilderment, Frustration Despair (Big Book p. 151) and I had a moment of clarity. I knew that I had to do something about my drinking, or I would die a horrible death at the hands of others or by my own hand.

I called AA, struggled to find the location of the meeting place, arrived there two hours later, and was greeted by three members who were compassionate and understanding and as they listened, my sense of isolation slowly went away, as did the desire to drink. I have never wanted a drink from that moment (October 5, 1969) to the present.

I have never had to struggle with the AA program and have embraced it to the best of my understanding. I came to understand that the things that I did as a child and as a practicing alcoholic were the ingredients of the disease of Alcoholism and that, the die was cast at the age of six, all the ingredients were there long before I ever took a drink and all I had to do was add the alcohol.

Once I removed the alcohol, all the ingredients were still there and that is what the program helped me to set right.

I was not responsible for becoming an Alcoholic. I am, however, accountable for my behavior while I was drinking. And, if I am willing to make restitution and clean up the wreckage of the past, I can free myself from all the guilt and shame and walk away with my dignity and self respect.

Today my life is better than it ever could have been, had I never become an Alcoholic in the first place, and, of that, I am convinced.





## God as We Understand Him

Alcoholics Anonymous came into existence in 1935 at a time when much of our society was centered around the churches in the communities where we lived. Much of the South and the Midwest are still like that to this day.

As a child in my home town, on Sunday morning I could look out the window and see a great majority of my neighbors walking to church. That was the way it was in the early 1940's. The book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, was published in 1939 and seems that it was highly influenced by the many early members of the program at that time.

A.A. could have, very easily become a religious program. But, fortunately, the elders of that time realized, by the mistakes of the Oxford Group, and the Washingtonians, that they had to make it clear that, a desire to stop drinking was the only requirement for membership, and that the individual members could choose their own concept of a power greater than themselves, i.e. God as we understand him.

In Tradition Two it says, "*As He may express Himself in our group conscience*" When the word God is used in the remainder of the book, it is not always followed by the "*as we understand him*" qualifier, and I believe that many members get the idea that somehow, they are trying to push religion on them. I think that's understandable.

When I was faced with that possibility, I personally found it easy enough to read the black part of the pages in the book and to not let myself become distracted by what I now recognized as a cultural norm at the time. I had no problem setting aside my religious bias and recognizing the parts of the Big Book and the 12x12 that clearly state all of the options available when it comes to finding a "*power greater than myself*", and I can name several right off top.

Alcohol itself was my higher power for a long time and still would be if hadn't gotten into the program.

My EGO ran my life for quite awhile until I got serious about life issues.

The A.A. program itself. I found myself spiritually lost when I surrendered and entered the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and when faced with the need to come to terms with the Higher Power issue, I now realize why it took such a long time to settle this subject.

Years of drinking and an underdeveloped thinking process that was hard to get up to speed right away. As I got more familiar with the Big Book, and the 12x12, I started to uncover all the evidence that debunked the idea that I had to conform to any religious doctrine. In the 12x12 I read on page 26, "*Alcoholics Anonymous does not demand that you to believe anything.*" On belief, "*to acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A.A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could.*" (p 27)

Also on page 26 where it states, "*Take it easy. The hoop you have to jump through is a lot wider than you think..... A one-time vice-president of the American atheist Society ... got through with room to spare*" Then on page 33 of the 12x12 it says "*Therefore, Step Two is the rallying point for all of us. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we can stand together on this step.*"

Today I am very comfortable with my own concept of a Higher Power and I use the word God only to put a name on a concept that has no physical form and I might say that it expresses itself in the collective conscience of the world we live in. I can assure you that if you read these qualifiers and practice the rest of the principals of the program, as enthusiastically as you can, you will come to terms with a personal concept of a higher power as well as any of us.

**“As faith grows, so does inner security.”**

**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

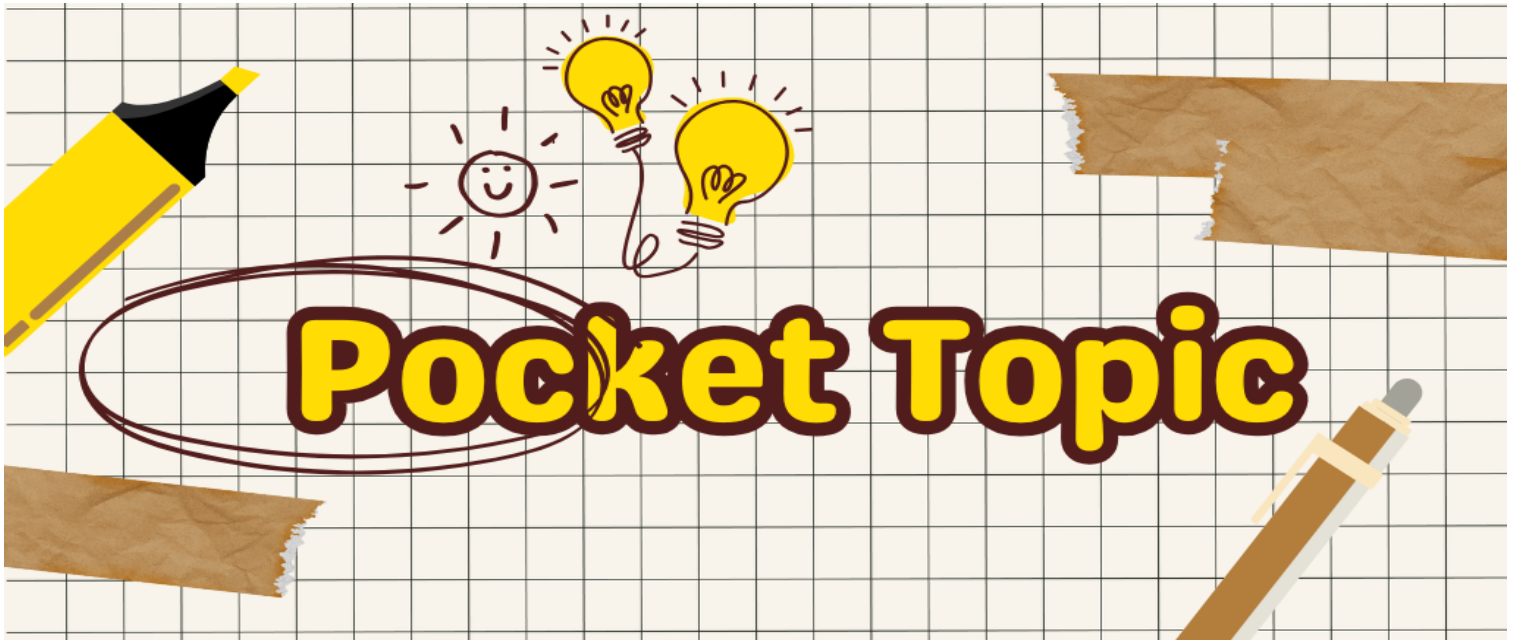


## THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

Bill W.'s  
Grapevine Writings

**“We neither ran nor fought. But accept we did. And then we began to be free.”**

**AA Co-Founder, Bill W., March 1962, “What Is Acceptance?”, The Language of the Heart**



Ever have to chair a discussion meeting and be absolutely gob smacked for a topic? Well my friends, fret no more. Courtesy of Central Office, here is a handy-dandy (suggested, always suggested) list of potential topics – a list suitable for tucking into your Big Book for quick reference. Better yet...have a phone? Take a pic and, voila, “Pocket Topic!”

- After not drinking for a while, what other issues surfaced that needed to be dealt with: depression, anger, loneliness, egotism, family relations, other addictions?
- What is your favorite AA slogan and how has it helped you?
- Hope – did you lose it? Do you have it now? If no, what is blocking it?
- Who is your “walking Big Book?” Why?
- Since recovery, what was the closest you came to drinking and, more importantly, what did you learn from it?
- What are you doing for the newcomer?
- What is currently your best tool for staying sober: meetings, steps, prayer, higher power, sponsor, slogans, meditation, phone calls?
- Which character defect are you currently working on?
- Which one tripped you up the most: Cunning? Baffling? Powerful?
- Why do you keep coming back?
- On a daily basis, how do you deflate your ego?
- Which Promises have come true for you?

Paul R. , Cleveland AA Central Office

# 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**

**Calling all AA  
Authors !!!**

**Please submit  
an article to**

**The COURIER !!!**

**Email article to:**

**naplesintergroup@yahoo.com**



**Your Groups'**

**Activities**

**Can Be Here**

**Next Month.**

**To Highlight**

**Your Group,**

**Please Call Us:**

**Intergroup Office**

**239/262-6535**

## Big Book History – Why We Call It "The Big Book"

A printer in Cornwall, NY, named Edward Blackwell, had been highly recommended to Bill Wilson. Blackwell was the President of Cornwall Press. So Bill and Hank Parkhurst (author of the personal story "The Unbeliever" in the first edition of the Big Book) went to Cornwall to see Blackwell. There they were told that the book would probably be only about four hundred pages when printed. That seemed a bit skimpy. They wanted to sell the book for \$3.50 per copy. That was a very large sum in those days; probably the equivalent of about \$50 today, and people might not think they were getting their money's worth.

They picked the cheapest, thickest paper the printer had, and requested that each page be printed with unusually large margins surrounding the text. This made for an unusually large book. Thus, the book came to be nicknamed the "Big Book."

A reproduction of the first printing can be purchased today and it is much taller and thicker than the current Big Book, although it has fewer pages.

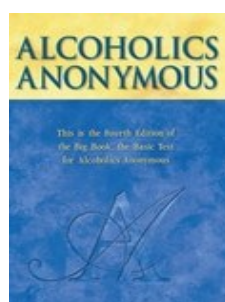
Blackwell had an excess of red material for the bindings, so he offered them a special deal. Eager to save costs, Bill and Hank agreed. They also thought, according to some reports, that the color red would make the book more attractive and marketable.

The first printing was the only one on which a red binding was used. All the other printings of the first edition, except for the fourth printing, were in various shades of blue. The fourth printing, due to another overstock of binding material and thus, lower cost, was bound in blue as well as in green.

Despite all their efforts at proofreading, there was a typographical error in the first printing. On page 234, the second and third line from the bottom was printed twice. This was corrected in subsequent editions.

A New York AA member named Ray Campbell, a recognized artist, was asked to design the dust jacket. His story, "An Artist's Concept", appears in the Big Book's first edition. He submitted various designs for consideration including one which was blue and in an Art Deco style. The one which was chosen was red, and yellow, with a little black, and a little white. The words Alcoholics Anonymous were printed across the top in large white script. It became known as the circus jacket because of its loud circus colors. The unused blue jacket is today in the Archives at the Stepping Stones Foundation

Nancy O., AA member.



**BE A PART OF SOMETHING  
WONDERFUL!**

**LOOKING FOR SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES?**

**HELP MAKE THE  
SISTERS BY THE SEA, 2026  
CONFERENCE SUCCESSFUL!**

**JOIN THE HERD AND HAVE SOME FUN!**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE ON MONDAYS AT 5:30 PM AT  
THE NAPLES INTERGROUP OFFICE IN PERSON OR ZOOM  
ZOOM ID: 2397844921 PW: 2026**

**Meeting Dates:**

**January 26th; February 23rd; March 30th; April 13th;  
April 27th; weekly in May; and June 1st.**

**The final conference meeting will be held on June 8th in  
the Governors Suite at the Hilton Naples.**

**\* MEMORABILIA**

**\* BE A GREETER**

**\* ENTERTAINMENT**

**\* REGISTRATION**

**SISTERS BY THE SEA JUNE 12,13,& 14TH  
HILTON NAPLES**

**REGISTER AT [WWW.SISTERSBYTHESEA.COM](http://WWW.SISTERSBYTHESEA.COM)**

**QUESTIONS?**

**CALL PEGGY P.E. AT 239-269-7651**

**OR E-MAIL [SISTERSBYTHESEALLC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SISTERSBYTHESEALLC@GMAIL.COM)**

# 68<sup>th</sup> FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION

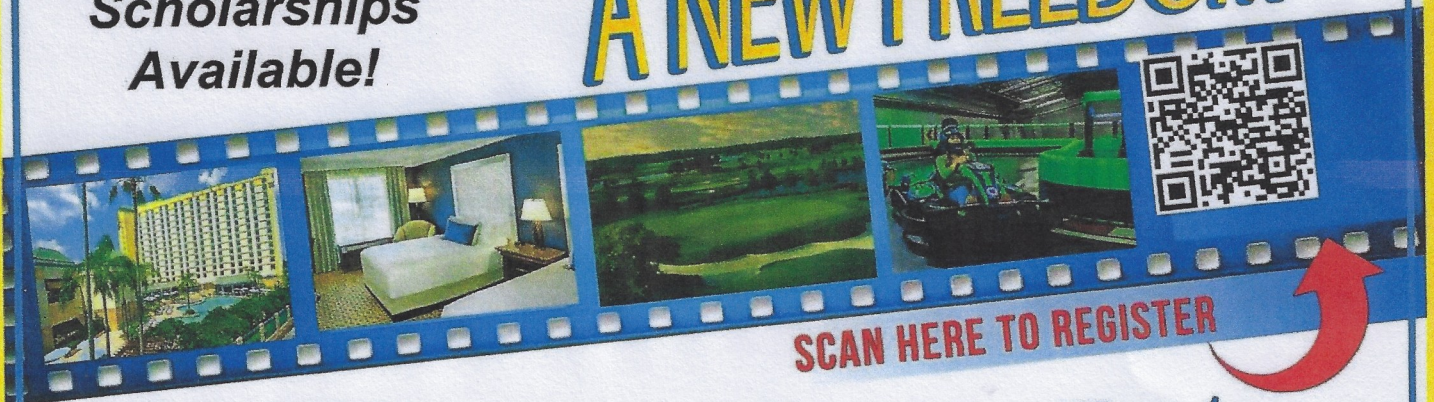


ORLANDO, FL **ROSEN PLAZA**  
ORLANDO  
August 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2026

9700 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819

## A NEW FREEDOM

**Scholarships Available!**



### Fun Activities

- ✓ Indoor Go-Karts
- ✓ Games & Trivia
- ✓ World Class Golf
- ✓ Dance Parties
- ✓ Scenic 5K Run

### Experience Freedom

- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Great Speakers
- ✓ Meet New Friends
- ✓ Marathon Meetings
- ✓ Panels

**Register Today While Rooms Are Available!!!**

Register Online at <https://68.FloridaStateConvention.com>

Scan the QR Code with your camera. For assistance please visit <https://68.FloridaStateConvention.com>



Overflow  
Hotel 1 – \$109  
\$20 add. person  
Hyatt Place  
8741 International Dr.  
Orlando, FL 32819  
1-407-370-4720



Overflow  
Hotel 2 – \$159  
Rosen Centre  
9840 International Dr.  
Orlando, FL 32819  
1-407-996-9700



Call 1-407-996-9700  
to be put on a  
waiting list if  
available. - \$159  
9700 International Drive  
Orlando, FL 32819

<u>FINANCES</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>YTD26</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Literature/Merchandise	\$6,020	\$6,020
Group Contributions	2,040	\$2,040
AA Birthdays		
Faithful Five		
Individual/Anonymous	144	144
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b>8,175</b>	<b>8,175</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Bank/Credit Card Fees	115	155
Licenses/Permits	-	
Office Supplies	167	167
Office Improve/Repair	-	
www Hosting	-	
Payroll	2,331	2,331
Payroll Tax	-	
Postage	-	
Printing	-	
Purchases/Lit./Merch.	2,089	2,089
Insurance	-	
Rent	500	500
Sales Tax	302	302
Telephone/www	286	286
Utilities	100	100
Computer Equipment	-	
Computer Software	107	107
Licenses / Memberships	270	270
Accounting Services	-	
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b>6,266</b>	<b>6,266</b>
<b><u>Net Ordinary Income</u></b>	<b>\$1,908</b>	<b>\$1,908</b>
Gratitude Dinner Tickets	-	
Raffle Ticket Sales		
Gratitude Expenses	-	
<b><u>NET OTHER INCOME</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b><u>NET INCOME</u></b>	<b>\$1,908</b>	<b>\$1,908</b>

**Thank you to all who contribute 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

<u>Naples Area Intergroup</u>	<u>General Service Office</u>
1509-B Pine Ridge Road Naples, FL 34109 (50%)	James A. Farley Station P. O. Box 2407 New York, N. Y. 10116 (30%)
<u>District 20</u>	<u>Area 15</u>
District 20 Treasurer P.O. Box 2896 Naples, FL 34106 (10%)	<b>Area 15 Treasurer</b> <b>2950 W. Cypress Creek Rd.</b> <b>Ste 333 #1097</b> <b>Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309</b> <b>New Address(10%)</b>

**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*



# The Birthday Club

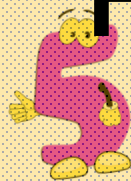
Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the AA Birthday Club? Sign up today and be featured in the *Courier*. Show your support for your Central Office. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety will help carry the message to alcoholics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



Rick G.	55 years
Paul B.	51 years
Ron P.	51 years
Ron L.	47 years
Jackie G.	39 years
Bill D.	38 years
Merle B.	37 years
Michael L.	36 years
Dennis F.	35 years
Rad W.	35 years
Judy W.	34 years
Steve K.	32 years
Bill S.	23 years
Ken H.	23 years
Laura .	7 years
Eric S.	6 years



# Faithful Fivers Needed



## 2025 Monthly Faithful Fiver Club

***April O., Bill D., Bill S., Eric S., Jeanette H., Jim H., Judy W., Kathryn Mc., Ken H., Ralph W., Rick G., Ron L., Theresa R.***

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.

## 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:

Joe S. 845/554-8721  
chair@district20aa.org

#### Alt. Chair:

Tom D. 845/23-6780  
tomadavison@yahoo.com

#### Registrar:

Katie B. 708/408-9330  
kaboyle56@gmail.com

#### Treasurer

Bob A., 440/667-4372  
treasurer@district20aa.org

#### Secretary:

Maury D. 239/370-7232  
maury@mdailey.com

#### Service Committees:

#### Archives

Heather O. 272-2632  
district20archives@gmail.com

### District 20 Business Meeting

4th Thursday of each month,  
7:00pm New Attitudes Club  
4133 Tamiami Trail E.

#### Current Practices

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

#### Grapevine / Literature

Lauren F. 220-2792  
laurenfrosch@comcast.net  
Jody L. 518/335-9748  
jojopr1025@gmail.com

Business meeting the third  
Tuesday of each month at  
5:30 p.m., 24 Hour Club

#### Institutions

Maria M.  
mmetchear@aol.com  
1st Thursday of each month  
at 7:00 p.m., 24 Hour Club

#### Public Information/CPC

Ronnie P., 269-8251

*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  
Twenty-Four Hour  
Club  
1509 Pine Ridge Road

### Technology Opportunity.

## Commitments

### DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER

Every day except  
Wednesday  
7:00 p.m.  
Maria M., 370-2034  
mmetchear@aol.com

### WILLOUGH

Sunday, Monday and  
Thursday  
7:00pm  
Peggy E., 269-7651  
marco-  
angelz000@gmail.com

### HAZELDEN

Monday, 7:00pm  
Nick Geer 818/424-5463  
nicgeer@gmail.com

### BRIDGING THE GAP

Joe S., 845/554-8721  
joeascalialia@icloud.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 75

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

Delegate: Lisa D.  
delegate@area15aa.org

Alternate: Donna W.  
altdelegate@area15aa.org

Chair: Bron F.  
chair@area15aa.org

Treasurer: Alan T.  
treasurer@area15aa.org

Registrar: Lea A.  
registrar@area15aa.org

Secretary: Paul M.  
secretary@area15aa.org

## Naples Area Intergroup

### Trusted Servants

#### Chair:

Blake B., 285-7174  
blake91511@gmail.com

#### Vice Chair:

Robert C. 784-8514  
bcrowe616@aol.com

#### Treasurer:

Dalton M.  
781/444-7070  
daltonmurfee@aol.com

#### Secretary:

Jasmine C., 220-7798  
jasmineyeater@yahoo.com

#### Members at Large:

### Service Opportunities

#### Office Manager:

Ken Helton  
1509-B Pine Ridge Road  
Naples, Florida 34109-2198  
naplesintergroup@yahoo.com  
Phone: 239-262-6535  
239/963-7820  
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

Amy D., Annamarie T., Becky S., Bill S., Bonnie B., Caroline H., Eric S., Gay S., Geoff S., Lara E., Natacha A., Peggy E., Ralph B., Swen L., ... and loyal substitutes.

### Service Opportunity

#### After-Hours Phone Volunteers

Bob M., Craig P., Geoff E., Heather B., Ken H., Lauren F., Steve K., and Tim A.