AA's Concept Five preserves the right of unpopular Opinions and/or practices, ensuring that we help break down barriers to sobriety, not build them

by JoeC - Recovery - May 9, 2012

Concept V[iii]: “Through our world service structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus ensuring that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.”

A poignant story comes from “AA Comes of Age.” In the mid 1950s AA was reaching alcoholics around the world, where the God belief that dominates AA culture was not shared by many. Bill Wilson was quite clear about the liberty for individual groups in his Chapter on Unity from “A. A. Comes of Age.” On page 81 he is talking about Buddhists who said that they would love to be part of AA, yet they would be replacing the word “god” with “good” so that the practice of the Steps could be compatible with their atheistic belief. In 1957, Bill writes:

“To some of us, the idea of substituting ‘good’ for ‘God’ in the Twelve Steps will seem like a watering down of A.A.’s message. But here we must remember that A.A.’s Steps are suggestions only. A belief in them, as they stand, is not at all a requirement for membership among us. This liberty has made A.A. available to thousands who never would have tried at all had we insisted on the Twelve Steps just as written.”

The AA Service Manual states that “When a minority considers an issue to be such a grave one that a mistaken decision could seriously affect AA as a whole, it should then charge itself with the duty of presenting a minority report.”

Bill goes on to say, “minorities frequently can be right; that even when they are partly or wholly in error they still perform a most valuable service, when by asserting their ‘Right of Appeal,’ they compel a thorough debate on important issues. ‘The well-heard minority, therefore, is our chief protection against a, misinformed, hasty or angry majority.”

In an AA without Concept V unpopular opinions or ways of doing things are suppressed or eradicated, uniformity replaces unity and our AA becomes a culture of conformity, replacing the tapestry that preceded it. This is the natural consequence of apathetic, self-seeking, uninformed or angry majorities that resist scrutiny. Long live Concept V.


Recovery
Step Five:
“Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

Unity
Tradition Five:
“Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.”

Service
Concept Five:
“Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and petitions for the re-dress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.”

Prayer for the 5th Step:

God I thank you from the bottom of my heart that I know you better. Help me become aware of anything I have omitted discussing with another person. Help me to do what is necessary to walk a free man at last. AMEN (p. 75 BB)

Step 5: “Having made our personal inventory, what shall we do about it?” So begins the discussion of Step Five in chapter six of the Big Book.

In one of the early issues of the Grapevine, the author of a piece on this Step described it as a link between recognizing our faults (Fourth) and doing something to correct them (Sixth and Seventh).

By the time we come to this Step, it seems to me, we ought to have encountered and begun to deal with the idea of a Power greater than ourselves. When I find myself balking again, because the Step involves further discourse with God, the signal is clear that it’s time to backtrack. Let me return to the earlier Steps and do a little more groundwork.

With time, I began to find it comparatively easy to make admissions to God. My God is eager to understand and to forgive, so eager that it becomes easy for me to misinterpret his love, and to overlook his request for rigorous honesty (the basic requirement, incidentally, for sobriety itself). I sometimes take God for granted. I tell myself that he knows all and it is not necessary to make any admission to him. But that isn’t so. It is entirely necessary to take God into my confidence.

I ought, also, to take good, reasonable care in my choice of the human being I’ll be sharing my Fifth Step with. One aspect of the Step that still delights and reassures me is the use of the words “another human being.” By implication, the Step is telling me that I, too, am a human being. I believe it today, but it was news when I first came in. I had long ceased to regard myself as a human being. I had lost my claim to humanity. I had next to no moral values left. Ideals, ethics, and virtue had fallen by the wayside. In the end it was the most difficult action imaginable to reach out for anyone’s help. Finally, I reached out to AA, and made my first admission of powerlessness. It was also my first attempt to admit the exact nature of my most fundamental defect: that I drank too much for too long, and by my drinking had ruined my life.

But the part of the Step that gave me the most trouble, and still does, occasionally, is the last part, “the exact nature of our wrongs.” Even after reading the “Twelve and Twelve” and listening to lots of Step talk, I could not grasp the significance of the phrase “exact nature.” It took a crisis situation in the life of a friend to bring it home to me. In my attempt to console my friend, I heard myself say, “Tell me exactly what happened.”

So it is with this Step. For example, it is not enough to admit that I was a home-wrecker. If I am to be released from the burden of guilt, if I am to be strengthened against further indulgence in my old weakness, I must admit to God, to myself, and to another human being exactly what happened in each case of home-wrecking. I ought also be willing to admit to situations where I might not have caused a split but did actually damage the foundations of a home.

In order to derive full benefit from the Fifth Step, I like to think about the exact nature of my recovery. I was not able to quit drinking and begin recovery all by myself. I needed lots of help. Along with so many others I can say that I got the message of AA through the grace of God, just as through the healing grace of AA I got the message of God.

And I like to think about those messages. The one tells me of a way out of the drinking problem; the other, of a way out of the bond-age of despair.


Tradition 5: Tradition Five is a reason why someone who has had a drink should be stopped from speaking in a meeting. Someone who is drunk can be helped at a meeting (after all Bill W was drunk when got the message from his sponsor, Ebby), but they cannot give what they haven’t got. And so if they have no sobriety, they cannot help others through their sharing.

Also, if anyone is disruptive in a meeting and diverting it from its primary purpose, they should be asked to be quiet or leave. If they continue to be disruptive, ultimately the police can be called to forcibly remove them. We have always found the police helpful in such cases.

There is another revealing phrase in the long form of this Tradition. We are told that each group is a “spiritual entity.” An entity is something that is complete in itself. We can test whether or not a group fulfils this criterion by asking the question: “If all groups did as we did, would all alcoholics get the chance to stay sober?” Each group should aim, through a combination of sharing and personal sponsorship, to enable any suffering alcoholic to receive the full AA message. Sometimes we hear, for example, that it’s okay to have meeting exclusively for men because women can go to other meetings. However, if all groups were Men’s Meetings then women would have nowhere to go in AA. By this argument, such a meeting does not conform to Tradition Five.

Excerpt reprinted from http://bigbookrecovery.com/traditions_three_five.html
Rule 62: Don’t take yourself so damn seriously.

NNIG Events

NNIG Monthly Speaker Meetings
Silver Legacy – 467 North Virginia Street Reno 89501

2nd Saturday of each month. Doors open at 6:30 PM Speaker at 7:00 PM
Saturday May 10, 2014
Host Group - Whole in the Ground (Silver Legacy, Silver Baron 1-6)
Speaker – Jenn W (Sacramento CA)
June 21, 2014 – 3rd Saturday of the Month
Host Group - 4th Dimension (Silver Legacy, Silver Baron 1-6)
Speaker – Long Timers
July 2014 – No Meeting
Serenity in the Sierra’s Camp Out
August 9, 2014
Host Group – TBA (Silver Legacy, Silver Baron 1-6)
Speaker – Larry S (Los Angeles)
September 20, 2014
Host Group – TBA (Silver Legacy, Silver Baron 1-6)
Speaker – TBA
October 11, 2014
Host Group – TBA (Silver Legacy, Silver Baron 1-6)
Speaker – TBA

NNIG Speaker Chair: Laura J (916) 363-0277
Speaker Co-Chair: Kathy E (916) 426-3856
Need more info call: Central Office – (775) 388-1181

NNIG FOUNDERS DAY FELLOWSHIP PICNIC POT LUCK
June 7, 2014 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
771 Spice Island Drive Sparks Nevada 89431
• Hamburgers and Hotdogs Provided
• Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert
• If your last name begins with the letter below please bring item:
  A-H Water, I-P Soda-Juices Q-Z Desserts
• Family and Friends Welcome
• Games and Raffle
• $5.00 Donation Requested “Not Required”

Sponsored by: NORTHERN NEVADA INTERACT®/CENTRAL OFFICE
RENO-SPOKES (Rio Ruidoso) 89431
771–925-1151

Other Area Events

Stagecoach Friends of Bill W. Potluck/Meeting
Friday, June 6th
Potluck 6 PM, Speaker 7 PM
Guest Speaker: Erich H. from Silver City
For more information:
Call Will L: 450-2357

GSR SURVIVAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Are these some of the questions you are asking yourself?
Have you had an AA friend say, “I wonder if I could be a GSR?”
Well... come and find the answers with us.
Saturday May 10, 2014
Reno Triangle Club
625 South Wells Ave
Reno, NV 89502
Room 3... 12PM-3PM
For questions contact Chris S at 1-775-781-3601 or email to eminutes@gmail.com

Serenity in the Sierra's 25th Annual
25th Annual Serenity in the Sierras
July 17-20, 2014
Camp Richardson
South Lake Tahoe, CA

We never have to walk alone...

11th Step Retreat
Friday-Saturday May 9th, 10th, 11th
Zephyr Cove Conference Center Lake Tahoe
STEERING COMMITTEE & CHAIRPERSON POSITIONS OPEN
ELECTIONS IN JUNE
STEERING COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON – 5 years
VICE-CHAIR – 5 years
SECRETARY – 2 years
TREASURER – 5 years
2 INTERGROUP REPs – 2 years
NNIG CHAIRPERSONS
ANSWERING SERVICE – 4 years
ACTIVITIES EVENTS – 2 years
THE BRACER NEWSLETTER – 2 years
COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL Comm (CPC) – 2 years
MONTHLY SPEAKER CHAIR – 2 years
PUBLIC INFORMATION – 2 years
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – 2 years
WEBMASTER – 2 years
BRIDGING THE GAP – 2 years
CORRECTIONS – 2 years
TREATMENT – 2 years

A REQUEST FROM YOUR ARCHIVES COMMITTEE
Your NAGSC Archives Committee has been making copies of District binders so that both NAGSC and Area 42 will have copies. We’ve come across many (maybe 75%) of old fliers have a date but it does not include the year. Some of these are many years old, so it’s almost impossible to determine when they were printed. Please, when making posters about your events (picnics, meetings, campouts, workshops and other special gatherings, etc.) PLEASE include a location, day, month and year. And be sure to send a copy to the committee for permanent preservation of our AA history. Email a copy to: alternatearchivist@nevadaarea42.org. Or snailmail to Archives, 1374 Sanden Lane, Minden, NV 89423.

NEW AT CENTRAL OFFICE
BOOK COVERS – ALL COLORS & SIZES
TRI-PLATE CHIPS IN A VARIETY OF YEARS & COLORS
75th ANNIVERSARY BIG BOOK

NEEDED: A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL TO DONATE A NEW PAPER CUTTER & VACUUM CLEANER
ALCOHÓLICOS ANÓNIMOS - DOCE PASOS Y DOCE TRADICIONES - ALL EN ESPANOL BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

AREA CLUBS
Reno / Sparks Clubs
Alano Club Sparks, 1640 Prater Way (775) 359-2727
Driars Club Reno 345 S. Wells Avenue (775) 324-9210
Triangle Club Reno 635 S Wells Avenue (775) 324-7977
Clubs outside Reno/Sparks Area
Alano Club Carson City, 1800 HWY 50 East (775) 882-0443
Bishop Alano Club (760) 873-6700
Elko Alano Club (775) 738-4747
Las Vegas Triangle Club (702) 435-0597
South Lake Tahoe (530) 541-1243
Susanville (530) 257-2880

WEDNESDAY BEGINNERS GROUP
6:30 PM
RAINBOW & COURT

THE FIRESIDE GROUP IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
2 NEW MEETINGS
WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM CLOSED MEN’S STAG
1ST & 3RD SATURDAYS AT 7PM OPEN SPEAKER MEETING
8200 OFFENHAUSER
COMSTOCK HILLS/HILLVIEW TERRACE
APARTMENT COMPLEX CLUBHOUSE
CLUBHOUSE IS AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE COMPLEX
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION EMAIL KEITH C. AT krcarter1990@gmail.com

Gratitude Dinner Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 15th @ 6:30
Central Office
436 S. Rock, Sparks, NV
Anyone interested in serving on the committee should plan to attend

M&M Group presents Flight
May 31st, 6:30 pm, 635 S. Wells Ave., Reno

“Flight soars.” Time
“Flight reminds us of what Denzel Washington can do when a role hits him with a challenge that would floor a lesser actor.” “He’s a ball of fire and his detailed, depth-charged; bruising true performance will be talked about for years.” Rolling Stone 4 out of 4 stars “It’s nearly flawless.” Chicago Sun-Times “Flight is a hell of a ride.” Entertainment Weekl “Denzel Washington’s performance is a triumph.” Time

For more event information contact Central Office @ 355-1151 or nnig.org
District Meetings

**District 2**
Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM
Reno Triangle Club, 635 S. Wells Avenue, Reno

**District 4**
First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM
Reno Triangle Club, 635 S. Wells Avenue Reno

**District 6**
1st Sunday of every numbered months
For information email district@nevadaarea42.org

**District 8**
First Sunday, 3:30 p.m., on odd numbered months call (760) 937-8497

**District 10A**
Third Sunday of every other month, 1:30 PM
680 River St, Elko, NV

**District 10B**
Last Sunday Odd Numbered Months @ 10:00AM
Rotating Group Locations – Call (775)430-0869

**District 11**
Only holds meetings 4 time a year, call DCM

**District 12**
2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM
457 Esmeralda Street Wolf Center, Fallon NV

**District 14**
3rd Tuesday of each “Odd” month at 6:00 PM - Contact DCM
Next location is determined at each meeting

**District 15**
Meeting is held 3rd Tuesday of the month Sparks Family Christian Church 510 Greenbrae Blvd 6:00PM-7:00PM

**District 18**
Dark District

**District 20**
First Saturday of every month 1:30 PM
50 South Weatherlow

**District 22**
Last Saturday of each Month at 5:00 PM 433 Pyramid Way

**N.N.I.G. Steering Committee**
Last Tuesday of each Month 5:30 PM
Central Office, 436 S. Rock Blvd, Sparks

**N.N.I.G. Intergroup Business Meeting**
First Saturday of each month, 7:00 PM
Reno Triangle Club, 635 S. Wells Ave. Reno

**N.N.I.G. Speaker Meeting**
Second Saturday of each month, 7:00 PM
Silver Legacy - Silver Baron A

**N.N.I.G. H&I**
Last Thursday of each Month, 5:15 PM
Central Office 436 S. Rock Blvd Sparks

**Answering Service**
Time slots now available. Get into service today and take a time slot. Get your home groups involved and adopt a time slot.
Call Central Office for available times and more information. 355-1151

**AA Answering Service Numbers**
Reno, Sparks, Carson City and all of Northern Nevada: (775) 355-1151
Las Vegas and all of Southern Nevada: (702) 598-5888
Mammoth Lake: (760) 934-3434
North Lake Tahoe: (530) 546-1126
South Lake Tahoe: (530) 541-1243
Susaville, CA: (530) 257-2880

**For donations, make your checks payable to NNIG and write who the donation is for in the memo line.**

**Volunteers Needed ASAP!**
Men & Women. To take meetings to Parr Blvd.
Applications available @ Central Office and are due to WCSO on February 21st for training on March 1st from 8-5. For more info contact Helen @ 775-842-6489 or hlingodfrey@outlook.com

**12 Step Volunteer Application Form**

Name: ________________________________ Date: ________________

Sobriety Date: ________________________________ Gender: Male ___ Female ___

Phone #: ________________________________ Location/City: ________________________________

Available: ________________________________

Days: ________________________________

Times: ________________________________

Submit this form or call Central Office to get on the list.
Who’s your sponsor?

From the March 2011 Grapevine Magazine

There seem to be as many views on sponsorship as there are views on a Higher Power. And the opinions on these matters run a parallel range of extremes, from warm-and-fuzzy friend to wrathful tyrant. In meetings I have heard people recount with visible glee the fury and condemnation their sponsors hurl at them. “And then he said, ‘You moron! You did that in the Third Step!’” Perhaps this model of sponsorship seeks to duplicate early childhood experiences at the hands of gruff-but-innocuous parents. Other people share stories of selfless sponsors with unparalleled devotion to their sponsees—helping to bury the dog’s ashes; attending birthing classes.

My own sponsors have included one chronic relapser, a sponsor who refused to do anything other than read alternating paragraphs out of the Big Book, a sponsor who seemed most interested in giving me marital advice and a very wise old woman who would just smile knowingly when I would rant, rave and diagnose myself. My sponsees have included people who wanted to move into my garage on a long-term basis, one who fired me after the first session and another who seemed to use text messaging as a form of all-night entertainment. My best sponsees have been the ones who said things that made me think, Oh no, I’m worse off than that, and I’m supposed to be the sponsor! They are the ones who make me launch into action as soon as we hang up the phone or say goodbye.

One of the most rewarding moments of sponsorship is to hear a Fifth Step. There is no more profound a speech that a sponsor will ever make, nor a more essential audience that a sponsor will ever be. If there has been a thorough, well-guided Fourth Step, an attentive sponsor and a proper invocation to both persons’ Higher Powers, the Fifth Step is a monumental catalyst for transformation. When I say that I am a grateful alcoholic, one of the pillars of that gratitude is the ability to transform my rocky past into stepping-stones for my sponsee’s journey. It’s like turning poison into medicine. That is why we don’t regret the past or wish to shut the door on it. A sponsor has the privilege of using past experience to benefit others.

Suzan C., San Francisco, Calif.
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Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

This is a tough step and takes courage to do. It is, however, a step that can be done if you make sufficient effort.

It is not new. The Catholic church uses it in their confessional and the psychiatrist uses it.

Drinking is caused by inner conflicts and the only way to get rid of these conflicts is to bring them out in the open and destroy them. Wrongs cause conflicts, hence the necessity of this step.

Take the first phrase, “Admitted to God.” How do you do this? First learn humility so that you can ask help in a humble manner. If you have difficulty in admitting the actuality of a supreme power, work on the premise that there might be one. Once you get your mind in tune with the infinite it is not difficult to realize that you have no secrets from God.

“Admitted to ourselves.” This can only be done when we are honest with ourselves. In this program it is folly to try to kid yourself. Be ruthless in your soul searching and come clean.

Great care should be taken in choosing “another human being.” It must be someone you can trust. Your lawyer, your doctor, your priest or minister, another A.A., or a friend; someone who will act as a sounding board and keep your confidence.

Once you take this step you will be astounded at the relief you feel. The burden of despair will be lifted from your back and you will be free.

It is essential for every A.A. to realize the importance of taking this 5th step. By so doing, all enmities, resentments and wrong thinking may be cast out and we can continue to the next step with a clear conscience.

It is advisable to repeat this step from time to time because it is human to err and even A.A.s are human.

### NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2014

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<td>Yerington Groups</td>
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Total: 3,419.32  9,460.37
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Send a check today to:
Northern Nevada Intergroup
Attn: Faithful Fiver
436 Rock Blvd South
Sparks, NV 89431

Faithful Fiver

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Announcing the 75th Anniversary Edition of the Big Book

A.A. World Services, Inc. is pleased to announce the publication of the only authorized reproduction of the first edition of Alcoholics Anonymous. This new edition is a faithful replica of the original, with the famous “circus cover” dust jacket and bulky paper (which is why it was initially called the Big Book). To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic publication of Alcoholics Anonymous in April 1939, the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of this facsimile edition of the first printing of the first edition.

NOW Available at Central Office

Profit & Loss Statement

Northern Nevada Intergroup
Profit & Loss
March 2014

Ordinary Income/Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mar 14</th>
<th>Jan - Mar 14</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<td>4200 - Birthday Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>4300 - Trainer Subscriptions</td>
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<td>Event Revenues</td>
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<td>4440 - Revenue</td>
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<td>Founders Day Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td>4475 - Expenses</td>
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<td>Total Founders Day Picnic</td>
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<td>Corneal Beef &amp; Cribbage</td>
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<tr>
<td>4480 - Revenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>4485 - Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Corneal Beef &amp; Cribbage</td>
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<td>Total Event Revenues</td>
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<td>4500 - Faithful Fivers</td>
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<tr>
<td>4550 - Group Contributions</td>
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<td>4600 - Individual Contributions</td>
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<td>4700 - Merchandise Sales</td>
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<td>4800 - Other Uncategorized Income</td>
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<td>4900 - Interest Income</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of Goods Sold</td>
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<td>5000 - Cost of Goods Sold</td>
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<td>Total COGS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gross Profit</td>
<td>7,885.26</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Send a check today to:
Northern Nevada Intergroup
Attn: Faithful Fiver
436 Rock Blvd South
Sparks, NV 89431

"Look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder. Let the challenges make you strong."
Pink Can Contributions - Correction, Treatment and Bridging the Gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Contributions 2014 YTD</th>
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<td>6th Dimension</td>
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<td>A-Val Home</td>
<td>Plum Canyon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alamogordo</td>
<td>Washoe County - Reno</td>
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<td>AlOSA Group</td>
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<td>Baja Mexican</td>
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<td>Back Room Group</td>
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<td>Canyon and Sharing Road</td>
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<td>Canyon Early Birds</td>
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<td>Corner Stone</td>
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<td>Desert Sunday Morning</td>
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<td>EROS</td>
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<td>Garden City Roadside Group</td>
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<td>Girl Gone Solo</td>
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<td>Ground Zero</td>
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<td>Happy Hour</td>
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<td>Jewellery Alley</td>
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<td>Just For Today Women’s</td>
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<td>Knakle Heels</td>
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<td>Minden Gardenville Group</td>
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<td>Southside Group</td>
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<td>Sunrise Group</td>
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<td>Truckee River Men’s Shag</td>
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<td>Woman’s New Harmony</td>
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<td>View From the Ridge</td>
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<td>VRepublican Pictures</td>
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<td>February Income/YTD</td>
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<td>February Balance Forard</td>
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<td>Account Balance</td>
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<td>March Li Distrib/End</td>
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NNIG Business Meeting Minutes

NNIG Minutes for May 6, 2014

Dan S., NNIG Chair, opened the meeting at 7pm with the “Serenity Prayer.” The NNIG Preamble was read and introductions of new Intergroup members were made. Introductions of all Intergroup members were made and Lisa C., Secretary, requested that members identify themselves as eligible voters in preparation for the NNIG elections on June 3, 2014. Clarification of voting members eligibility were made along with introductions.

A quorum was established. Approval of the April 1, 2014, minutes was made with the correction offered by Lisa C. that the Pink Can contribution from March be attributed to “Carson City Early Birds” and not simply “Carson City.”

Dan S. announced that two appointments had been made at the Steering Committee meeting contingent upon an NNIG vote: Joyce Y. was appointed CPC Chair and Rob S. was appointed Co-chair. Both were approved by voice vote.

Central Office Report – Leslie S. – Phone 775-335-1151May 6, 2014 e: officemanager@nnig.org

Calls for AA Help: 6 Calls for Al-Anon/Al-A-Teen: 2
Meeting Information: 69 12-Step Calls: 2
Other 12-Step Programs: 2 12-Step Information: 28

Business/AA Central Office: 93 Total Phone Calls into Central Office: 208
Volunteer Office Hours: 155

Central Office needs a vacuum cleaner in very good condition. * 75th Anniversary Big Book available at Central Office

*Merchandise sales at the Spring Festival: $2,103.70

Central Office would like to recycle raffle baskets. If you are an honored winner of one of our fellowship raffle baskets, please return it so that we may use them again.

Thanks.

Activities Committee Chair – Allen J. – Kathryn E. said that the Corned Beef & Cabbage Family Game Day was very successful with a great local speaker and the final account showed a profit of $660.22.

Harry H., picnic Co-chair, said that donations are needed for all basics for the Founders’ Day Picnic. The picnic is on June 7, 2014, 10am-6pm, at Cottonwood Park, 777 Spice Island Drive, Sparks. Note: The picnic is NOT at Richards Park this year! Please donate water, soda, juices, desserts and side dishes. Non-perishables (food and raffle prizes) may be left may at Central Office.

Harry can be reached at 379-4582. More volunteers are needed to help at the event.

Answering Service Committee Chairperson – Ron T. Volunteers are needed. A committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Brocer Committee Chair – Nancy A., Co-chair Sheila - Sheila said that the Brocer is running smoothly. Please get all event flyers to them so they can be published asap in the next edition.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Chairperson (CPC) – Joyce Y. Co-chair Rob S. Both were newly elected at tonight’s meeting. No report.

Treatment Facilities Chair – Bruce A. In the spirit of rotation Bruce will not be running for election next month. The committee needs more volunteers. The idea of groups adopting treatment meetings was raised again.

Correction Facilities Chairperson – Helen G. She recently went to the Parr facility to deliver $1,600. in literature for its use. They were extremely grateful. Helen has also met with various liaison personnel to coordinate with them and their needs.

At the committee’s recent meeting a plan was suggested by Debbie S., NAGSC Corrections/BTG representative, to connect AA’s on the inside to AA on the outside. GSO pamphlets will be pre-stamped with the Central Office address so that all correspondence will run through one place. Leslie agreed to this and said she was able to pass the information to the appropriate party based on the request. A new address stamp has been made.

The most effective way to distribute two pamphlets to inmates was discussed. These are “AA Corrections Pre-release Contact Information” and “AA Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request.” Facilities differ in the ways materials may be distributed to inmates, case workers, chaplains, PO’s, etc.

The Pink Can Fund is robust again. Leslie provided a list of institutions and treatment facilities and the committee will pursue contacting them to determine their current literature needs. How great is that!

Bridge the Gap Chairperson – Lee H. has done the following this past month:

*Still working on beginners’ meeting format
*Met with Debbie S., NAGSC Corrections/BTG Chair re: coordination in Area 42 remote areas
*Is working on getting requests for contacts with BTG by released treatment facility person and/or prisoners

Pink Can Treasurer – Bill P. – Bruce A. commented that everything is GREAT with the Pink Can.

Public Information Committee Chairperson – Donn T./Don D. Donn talked about topics including how PSA’s get distributed and scheduled. He continues to deliver meeting information to local hotels and recently expanded to the greater Tahoe area and additional remote areas.

Speaker Committee Chairperson – Laura J/Kathryn E – The April Speaker Meeting was a success with 188 people attending. The raffle raised $504. The 7th Tradition raised $157.95. Expenses were $75.00. The next Speaker Meeting is Saturday, May 10, 2014, with Jen W. from Sacramento speaking. The host is Whole in the Ground group. Thanks to all groups who have hosted! Please consider your group to host a future meeting.

Sunshine Committee Chairperson – Lindsey S. No report.

Webmaster – Kelly B., Co-chair Ollie K. Ollie is currently working with Kelly to maintain updates on a continual basis. Thanks to both for the detailed, important work.

Northern Nevada Area 42 Liaison – Michael L. The districts in the northern area have been busy with workshops that help to inform the groups how they can “carry the message.” In April, District 10b in Winnemucca held a workshop and chili cook-off. Presentations focused on the three legacies of recovery, unity and service. On May 10, 1-3pm at the Triangle Club Chris S., NAGSC survival trainer, will chair “GSR Survival Training Workshop.” If you are wondering what GSR’s do, or are thinking of becoming one, this workshop will answer your questions.

Monday, May 12, District 6 in Carson City is sponsoring a Corrections and Treatment workshop from 7-9pm. A dessert potluck follows. The focus is on bringing the solution to corrections and treatment facilities.

On May 17, 1-4pm at the Lassen County Drug and Alcohol facility in Susanville a workshop will be held by District 20. The focus of this workshop is a panel of PI and CPC committee members who will be asked questions by AA members about what it is they do.

The Regional Forum is coming July 11-13, 2014, in Boise, ID. This is a great opportunity to hear how GSO works and its mission to bring the message world-wide. For more information go to aa.org. Joyce Y. will also be coordinating people interested in going, keeping the cost down and car and room-sharing.

The next NAGSC meeting is Saturday, June 7 at Incline Village. Place TBA. The next Area 42 Assembly in Tonopah is September 5-7, 2014. For more information about general service Area 42, go to nevadarea42.org. Thank you for helping me be of service. It is a pleasure.

Treasurer – Dod P. He presented this month’s report and noted that cash reserves are healthy and the current deficit of $411.73 is ahead of the projected budget – and that’s good. Central Office Group Contributions are greatly appreciated. Pink Can Contributions continue strong and permit the distribution of specific AA approved literature to those in need. Line item #5120 includes both the new sign at the corner of 436. S. Rock and the professional fee for NNIG’s taxes for 2013. Motion to accept Dod’s report unanimously approved.
NNIG Business Meeting Minutes cont.

Intergroup Representatives – Steve M./David D.

Steve mentioned the following items which are also covered in the Steering Committee Minutes for April 27, 2014: the Yellow Page AA ad has been cancelled since people have numerous other sources for AA information, the Spring Festival raised $2,100 in merchandise sales, in the spirit of rotation all NNIG positions are considered open, the kids’ “bounce house” at the Founders’ Day Picnic was denied based on AA Traditions, Founders’ Day needs raffle prizes, the budget for Founders’ Day was approved by the Steering Committee, the CPC Chair and Co-chair were appointed by the S.C. subject to approval by NNIG reps, Computer back-up of Central Office data will begin and continue on a quarterly basis (now complete), qualified voters only will be eligible to vote in next month’s elections and elections will be held as per Operating Procedure 17.3 of the Guidelines.

David D. continues to work on the revisions to the NNIG Operating Procedures with an anticipated end date of June, 2014. He reviewed and answered questions regarding positions and sobriety requirements for next month’s elections (see complete list elsewhere in the Bracer).

Chair’s Report – Dan S. He will not be running for a second year as Chair. He said he has thoroughly enjoyed helping Central Office become a smooth-running operation with a workable budget. He said the taxes for NNIG were filed on time for the first time in its history!! Yes!

Elections are important! Please pass the word that all positions are open. Dan S. and Van D. will conduct the elections according to AA guidelines. Please have your voting representative attend.

Vice-Chair’s Report Dan M. – No report.

Secretary’s Report – Lisa C. Lisa thanked members for getting their reports to her. She announced that there were thirty-five qualified voting members present. She thanked members for explaining to their groups how the Pink Can Fund worked and for their support. She noted that the complete list of positions and sobriety requirements for elections will be published in the Bracer (see elsewhere). Thank you for letting me be of service.

Old Business

The revisions to the Operating Procedures were approved with Paul E. making the motion. He said that the final segment will be presented to the membership in early summer.

New Business – Elections are next month!

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm. The meeting closed with the “Responsibility Code.”

The next meeting is June 3, 7pm, Triangle Club. The next Steering Committee Meeting is May 27, 5:30pm at Central Office.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa C., NNIG Secretary

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes ~ April 29, 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm with a moment of silence and the “Serenity Prayer.”

A quorum was verified. Steering Committee members present: Dan S., Dan M., Dod P., Lisa C., Leslie S., Steve M., and David D.

Minutes from March 25, 2014, were approved with the correction to the Pink Can donation changed from “Carson City” to “Carson City Early Birds” as stated in the NNIG Meeting Directory. Again, thanks to the group for its generous donation.

Treasurer’s Report - Dod P. raised the item that he had cancelled the Yellow Pages AA ad earlier since he felt that it wasn’t worth the money. Most people access AA information through other sources. He apologized to the Steering Committee for not bringing this to them first. He continued with Central Office’s smooth running on a tight budget. Motion to approve his report as submitted. Unanimously approved.

Central Office Report – Leslie continues to purchase AA literature in bulk to minimize shipping costs. She is placing a $3,000.00 order in the near future. She is also working on a mobile credit card machine. She is especially grateful for the smooth running of the volunteers at Central Office.

Secretary’s Report – Lisa noted the correction to the minutes of the Steering Committee and the NNIG minutes regarding the Pink Can contribution from the Carson City Early Birds group. Thanks again for its generosity. She won’t be able to make the nnig.org announcements at the upcoming NNIG Speaker Meeting on May 10 since she’ll be attending the 11th Step Retreat at Lake Tahoe. Leslie will arrange for a substitute.

Intergroup Representatives’ Report –

Steve M. – He thanked Lisa for the clarification on the Early Birds group contribution.

David D. – He will not be available to run for Intergroup Treasurer in June due to other commitments. He hopes to remain active in Intergroup activities as his time allows.

Chair’s Report – Dan S. emphasized the importance of getting the word out to groups about the June elections. All positions are open. Leslie will make a list of positions and sobriety requirements for the Tuesday NNIG business meeting.

Vice-Chair’s Report – Dan M. – No report.

New Business – Gary G., former Activities Chair, said Mitch will be chair for the Founders’ Day Picnic at the new location: 777 Spice Island Blvd., Cottonwood Park, Sparks. Danny S. requested that the chair attend the next Steering Committee meeting to discuss the budget. The budget from 2013 was approved for 2014 with one line item correction. Two hundred people @$5.00 is $1,000, not $900. A third party offer of a children’s jump house at the picnic was rejected. The price of beef was discussed.

The next meeting for the Founders’ Day Picnic committee is Sunday, May 4, at the Triangle Club.

Joyce Y. was appointed CPC Chair and she will have Rob S. as co-chair. Both appointments effective immediately.

The issue of computer data back-up was discussed. It was decided that Central Office data be backed-up on a quarterly basis. Leslie will begin this process in the next thirty days.

Old Business – The lease agreement for 436 S. Rock, AA Central Office, has been signed by Treasurer Dod P. Previous concerns were all resolved.

The policy ad hoc committee continues to revise policies and procedures.

Specific committees and positions will be requested to obtain GSO kits from GSO, New York.

Steve M. asked whether the quorum issue had been resolved by the ad hoc committee. This issue will be treated as a separate amendment after the revisions are adopted.

A discussion ensued about group representatives’ eligibility to vote at the upcoming election in June. This is based on representatives participation in NNIG over the past twelve months. This will be announced at the business meeting on May 6, 2014. Leslie stated that the Steering Committee’s primary purpose is to support Central Office.

Danny S. will oversee the upcoming elections in June since he not running for re-election.

Motion to adjourn at 6:45pm approved. Meeting closed with the “Responsibility Code.”

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa C., NNIG Secretary
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