

September, 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Concept IX	2
Events	3
Showcase Meetings and more	4
Service Opportunities	5
Breathtaking Moments	
Book of the Month	7

GENERAL WARRANTIES OF THE NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

In all its proceedings, the Intergroup Association observes the spirit of AA Traditions, taking great care that the Intergroup Association never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus a reserve be its prudent financial principal; that none of the Intergroup Association members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decision be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that no Intergroup Association action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Intergroup Association may act for the service of AA Groups in the Northern Nevada area and parts of Northerm California, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Intergroup Association itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

(The above is adapted and modified from "The AA Service Manual", and AA Co-Founder Bill W's. Twelve Concepts for World Service; (AA Co-Founder Bill W's. Twelve Concept Strice Conference on April 26, 1962. This adaptation of copyrighted AA material has been approved by the General Service Board)

CENTRAL OFFICE

436 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks, NV 89431 Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM 24 Hour Answering Service: (775) 355-1151 Fax: (775) 355-1560 EMAIL: officemanager@nnig.org Web Site/Meeting Schedule: nnig.org The Bracer: nnigbracer@gmail.com



NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

Tradition Nine

I approached AA in Manhattan twenty-six years ago in total darkness as to how it did things. (How often is it approached any other way?) I guess I expected to find a written constitution, bylaws, dues, and paid sergeants of some kind trained to discipline the backsliders. After all, there was a telephone listing, and I had been invited to come to an office. That sounded pretty organized to me. But the first members I met unwittingly sowed confusion by using familiar terms in an unfamiliar context. Such words as "member, join, meeting, officer, committee," etc. do not mean the same in AA as outside it, but how was I to know that? My confusion grew as I heard and saw AA people behaving differently from each other, saying wildly disparate things, sometimes contradicting each other. Some even drank! I asked about the president of AA, and they said there wasn't any; yet they had a chairman, a secretary, and elections. There was no ritual for joining, they said; yet the secretary usually announced, "If you want to join this group, see me after the meeting." But, despite the vast ignorance of the noncom troops, AA got things done. The telephone got answered; meetings were held, with prearranged programs; coffee got served; a book and pamphlets were distributed. So AA must be systematized in *some* way, I had to conclude. But how? Was there a secret hierarchy of authorities who enforced the statutes by making members do things? Now I am convinced that one sure way to destroy AA would be for us to set up a rigid organization patterned after the non-AA societies we all know. Yet we cannot be a laissezfaire body, willing always to "Let George do it." Instead, each of us is expected, it seems to me, to assume enough personal responsibility on his own for the Fellowship to get its major function (Tradition Five) accomplished. Tradition Nine describes the masterful solution worked out during the first ten years of AA experience. Since so many alcoholics rebel against authority in human form, we just dispense with it altogether. The first seven words of Tradition Nine say that we have no bosses--echoing Tradition Two. But the last fourteen words describe the system and orderliness necessary for our outfit to get things done.

Ninth Tradition Checklist

- 1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
- 2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
- 3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program--even if no one makes me do so--with a sense of personal responsibility?
- 4. Do I try to exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
- 5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
- 6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
- 7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully--and profit thereby--when the time comes?

What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?



Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

Concept IX – The Need for Good Leadership Throughout A.A.

Bill begins his discussion of Concept Nine by saying that the success of any service structure always depends on the quality of persons available to carry out the jobs that need to be done. In A.A., this starts at the group level with the selection of its General Service Representative, and extends with increasing importance through to District Committee Members, Area Committee persons, Conference Delegates, and Members of the General Service Board. A.A.'s long term success depends on the selection of the best persons available at each job level.

Discussion of qualities of good leadership is central to Concept IX. Bill begins this discussion by setting up two opposite and extreme situations. Putting "principles before personalities", carried to an extreme, would set up a rather faceless group of automatons trying to please everybody. At the other end would be leaders who are "...people of the most sterling judgment, morals, and inspirations; big doers, prime examples to all, and practically infallible." Real leadership falls somewhere between these two extremes, being neither faceless and without personality differences, nor perfect.

Here are some bullet points drawn selectively from Bill's discussion of good leaders in A.A.

- They lead by example; they do not drive by mandate.
- They originate plans, policies and ideas for innovation while also consulting widely with others.
- They are neither over-bearing "power-drivers" nor meek "order takers".
- They never pass the buck, but take effective action within the framework of their defined authority and responsibility.
- They recognize that even prideful and angry people can be right while the humble may be quite mistaken.
- They listen carefully to their critics and others who disagree with them.
- They respect the quality of "give and take", being willing to compromise cheerfully.

Bill continues to discuss *vision* as another attribute of leadership. By vision, he means "...the ability to make good estimates, both for the immediate and more distant future. Tolerance, responsibility and flexibility are other leadership attributes are needed along with vision.

Every leader does have all the needed skills and experiences. Talents vary greatly among our members. Because of this, it is important to have sound methods for selecting leaders. At many levels of A.A., leaders are selected by what is called the "Third Legacy" method, which means selecting persons who either receive a two-thirds majority in a voting process or, in the case of no one receiving this majority, by lot (drawing names from a hat). Over the years, this has proven to be a most successful A.A. leader selection method. People with good combinations of skills and talents as well as good leadership attributes always seem to emerge from this procedure.

This is a 12 part series written by members of the 12 Concepts Study Group in Reno, Nevada. Efforts were made to use simple, everyday language. Each concept is written by an individual member of the group and is not necessarily the opinion of AA as a whole or NNIG. We hope this series will help our community to understand the Concepts and bring interest to those wanting to know more about them. Revised May, 2017.

The Bracer is a monthly publication intended for members of Alcoholics Anonymous and their families only. It is about, by and for members of the fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of A.A. as a whole or NNIG. For article submissions or comments, email the Editor at nnigbracer@gmail.com

Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the month.

NNIG & AREA EVENTS

Events hosted by Northern Nevada InterGroup to support Central Office

NNIG Monthly Speaker Meetings Silver Legacy – 407 North Virginia Street, Reno 89501 Monthly Speaker Meeting Doors open at 6:30 PM Speaker at 7:00 PM September 14, 2019

September 14, 2019 <u>Truckee River Mens Stag Thursday 7:30pm California Bldg</u> Speaker — Bubba Q. (Reno, NV) Location — Silver Baron 1-6

October 12, 2019 Keep it simple- Monday and Wednesday 7:30 Fernley Katie H. - Orangevale, CA Location — Silver Baron 1-6

<u>November 9, 2019</u> Eye Opener- Monday-Friday 8am Buddhist Temple Danny M. - Los Angeles, CA Location-Silver Baron 1-6

December 14, 2019 Aloha Group- Every day 12PM Triangle Club Heather S. - Reno, NV Location- Silver Baron 1-6

NNIG Speaker Chair: Chad S. – (916) 295-8486 Need more info call: Central Office – (775) 355-1151 Join us for dinner at Millie's 24 inside the Eldorado @ ∽5pm with the speaker





MORE AREA EVENTS



MEETINGS AND MORE

Dear NNIG Fellowship,

Central office report from Ronda H. September 3, 2019

We are still in need of volunteers for the office, Thursday morning 9-1 and Saturdays. Thank you so much to the volunteers that helped out on Saturday at the Fall Round Up. We are in the process of getting a new sign put up outside the office the other one was peeling and would not make it through another winter. Thank you Ron T. A member in our fellowship has stepped up to do ASL but please keep the word out she is only one person.

Volunteer hours- 136

Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help 5
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen 2
- Meeting information- 59
- Retail/merchandise-16
- Other 12 step programs- 4
- Events 10
- New to AA ~~ 10
- Business/Central office-83
- Vísítors 249

Ronda Central Office Manager



BEGINNERS ARE WINNERS Wednesday 6:45 A.M. 635 S. Wells Ave. Reno, NV

> AA Answering Service Numbers

Reno, Sparks, Carson City and all of Northern Nevada: (775) 355-1151 Las Vegas and all of Southern Nevada: (702) 598-1888 Mammoth Lake: (760) 934-3434 North Lake Tahoe: (530) 546-1126 South Lake Tahoe: (530) 541-1243 Susanville, CA: (775) 355-1151

SANDBAGGERS GROUP

Tuesday 12:00 P.M. 1800 HWY 50 EAST Carson City, NV

FIVE N LIVE

Tuesday 5:15 P.M. 680 RIVER STREET ELKO, NV

HIGH SIERRA GROUP

SATURDAY 8:00 A.M. 700 HOBSON STREET BISHOP, CA

BREAKFAST CLUB

MONDAY 7:00 A.M. 44 ½ GAY STREET SUSANVILLE, CA

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

Page 4

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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. BUSINESS MEETING First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 PM Alano Club, 1640 Prater Way, Sparks

N.N.I.G. MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING 7:00 PM Silver Legacy - Silver Baron A

N.N.I.G. H&I First Monday of each month, 5:30 PM Central Office 436 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

H&I, BRIDGING THE GAP FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5:30 pm, CENTRAL OFFICE

 $\frac{\text{Gratitude Dinner Meeting}}{4^{\text{TH}} \text{ Thursday of Each Month at 5:30}} \\ PM, Central Office$

HALLOWEEN COMMITTEE MEETING 2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM, CENTRAL OFFICE NEW YEAR'S GALA 2ND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 5:30PM, CENTRAL OFFICE

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



District Meetings

DISTRICT-2 Second Thursday of each month, 6:30 PM-Reno Central Office, 436 S. Rock Blvd. Reno
DISTRICT 4 First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM-
Reno Triangle Club, 635 S. Wells Avenue Reno
<u>DISTRICT 6</u> 2 nd Sunday of even numbered months-For information email <u>district6@nevadaarea42.org</u>
DISTRICT 8 First Sunday, 3:30 p.m. on odd months
Call (760) 937-8407
DISTRICT 10A Third Sunday of every other month, 1:30 PM 680 River St. Elko, NV
DISTRICT 10B Dark since 2017
DISTRICT 11 Only holds meetings 4 time a year, call DCM
DISTRICT 12 2nd Saturday of each Month at 5:00 PM- 457 Esmeralda Street Wolf Center, Fallon NV
DISTRICT 14 3rd Mon of each "Odd" month at 6:00 PM -265 Bear Street in Kings Beach CA
DISTRICT 16 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, Susanville
DISTRICT 22 1 st and 3' ^d Thursday of every month 6:30 PM @ Central Office

Volunteers are needed for Bridging the Gap service commitments. We have many opportunities available. Commitments are for one hour once a month. If you are interested, please email <u>nvbtgchair@gmail.com</u>

Volunteers are needed to take meetings into hospitals, institutions and treatment centers. Please contact Central Office or Treatment Chair Ryan S. for more information.

Drink Like A Fish

by Rick M.

0



The tipsy captain of old freighter saw what looked like the light of another ship on a collision course with his. He signaled, "Change your course ten degrees to the east," but the reply came back directing him to turn 10 degrees west. He sent a stronger message: "I'm a Navy Captain. Change your course!" The message came back: "I'm a seaman second class, but you'd better turn your ship." Infuriated, the Captain answered, "I'm a battleship. Get out of my way!" The final message came: "I'm a lighthouse. Do as you please." R.L., British Columbia, March 1985

Breathtaking Moments In A.A. Service

I suppose a November polar plunge into Lake Tahoe can be a breathtaking moment; but not very comforting. Same may apply to looking up from distraction and seeing you're about to rear end the car in front of you; breathtaking, but not very rewarding. There are moments in my life when I am moved emotionally and in sobriety, these seem to happen more and more. There are moments when I can feel a welling up inside taking place, a feeling of gratitude, comfort, happiness, joy; you name it, it just happens. These moments cumulate in a bit of a lump in my throat, my breath is taken for a moment, and emotion springs forward sometimes leading to tears of happiness. It can happen at awkward times like when I'm in the middle of a sentence; sometimes in front of a large group. Heartwarming none the less. Yes, life was once a vale of tears, many, many tears; tears of a different kind.

There are parts of my spirit that have awakened today, yes the spring board from our Twelve Steps that changes our outlook on life and the experiences we encounter in sobriety. Far cry from the mostly dark, emotionless, dreadful outlook on life from a previous day.

There was a day when disgust described my view of an alcoholic. As a youngster starting a career out of school I sold food to restaurants in San Francisco. An early morning business, I'd be on the streets of San Francisco full of distain for the bums sleeping on the sidewalks, sometimes blocking my entrance to the back door of a restaurant. "Get a job you pathetic drunk"," straighten up and act like a man". At the same time, food sales wasn't the only career I was starting. My high school sweetheart of six years asked me to promise I wouldn't drink at my own wedding when I proposed to her. She was first on what would become a long list of people who developed a desire for me not to drink over a 30 year drinking career. I'm feeling my sobriety today. Amazing to this very moment that I had once suffered from a "seemingly hopeless state of mind and body" and from that, I have recovered. Parts of my spirit have awakened including nothing but compassion today for anyone suffering from our disease. And with that comes the awareness that I am "gualified in a particular way" to help those who still suffer when nobody else can. Today I have a desire to do that; a dramatic change from my early food sales days, evidence perhaps of a psychic change occurring from a "spiritual experience".

Breathtaking moments do occur in other aspects of my life, but I have experienced many, more frequently through A.A. service. While service in my home group followed by sponsorship have led to many, I followed an early suggestion to investigate, without contempt, opportunities to learn more about the different ways I might be useful through additional forms of A.A. service. The journey has been remarkable dotted by breathtaking moments along the way and can be described as a "widening of my A.A. windshield"; a broader view with additional scenery as I travel our path. The "widening of my A.A. windshield" allowed me to find my own passion for A.A. services. As time has passed, I have found passion for most all forms of A.A. service. But it never would have happened if I had not looked into the many ways A.A. offers me the opportunity to serve. We all have the opportunity to find our own passion once we investigate our own next venture in serving our Fellowship.

As a Fellowship, we are today too few to help all who suffer from alcoholism. We can and do amplify our efforts however through working together in focus areas. We call these focus areas service committees. Our service committees make more Twelfth Step work, and more productive Twelfth Step work possible often because our committees arrange for a few of us to carry our message to many who may need and want our help. Other times our service committees make it possible for the person who needs our help to know how to get in touch with us for help and allow us to be available when the request for help is made.

When we learn more about the many ways our Fellowship can and does serve the alcoholic who still suffers, we can in turn help our fellow A.A. members learn more about how they can be helpful. We call this carrying the message of service. Many folks have done this for me along my journey.

I once investigated being a temporary contact or "gapper" in a Bridging The Gap Committee. The idea was to take a newcomer leaving treatment to his first A.A. meeting so he wouldn't have to go alone; help the new guy feel "comfortable" in the A.A. environment. My first candidate had already been to A.A. six times along with his five other treatment programs. He was worried this wasn't going to work for him. The moment after he received his one year sobriety coin he told me the Bridging The Gap service saved his life. "There it was, the lump in my throat that for a moment took my breath away", that welling up of emotion that brought a tear to my eyes; "thank you A.A. for being there" and "thank you A.A. for me being sober and being a small part of this man's joy". I never asked for this and I never expected it. It just happened.

I once heard the local "Cooperation With The Professional Community, (CPC), Committee needed help. I showed up at their committee meeting. Seems an arrangement had been made for an A.A. presence on the agenda of the annual meeting of the local probation department, about 90 of their officers. A.A. needed two willing candidates to deliver a message on their meeting to tell them who we were and how we work. Far be it for me, a guy who spent an eternity on formal probation with bimonthly appearances before their officers for what seemed like my whole life, to want anything to do with probation my mind said. My mouth said "I'll do it". Yes, I was particularly nervous when I saw three or four of the officers from my past sitting in the amphitheater audience. But after the pitch came the breathtaking moment. A few officers approached me and said; "our careers are characterized by revolving door problem people who usually wind up back in jail time and time again. We don't see success stories very often but when we do, it gives meaning to the work we do. We now know the success that can be found through Alcoholics Anonymous!" There it was, the lump in my throat that for that moment took my breath away accompanied by that welling up of joy to my heart and a tear to my eyes; "thank you A.A. for being there" and thank you A.A. for allowing me to be sober and a small part of this". I never asked for this moment, I didn't expect it, it just happened.

Some years ago at a local Intergroup meeting I heard a corrections committee rep say something about the Fellowship need for members to write letters to inmates; no experience having been incarcerated required. Well......I had a little experience with incarceration but thought what the heck, I'll investigate this. Over a decade of letter writing later, the breathtaking moments still arrive. The inmate speaks from the heart, relays the bitter experience of isolation and living with painful wreckage of past destructive drinking. He writes that mine is the only piece of mail he ever receives; he drank everyone else out of his life. Receiving my letter is the bright spot in their month and they are finding hope that Alcoholics Anonymous will lead to an improved life. Again that welling up of emotion, that breathtaking moment that proceeds the lump in my throat that is gratitude and joy, "thank you A.A. for my sobriety and for being a small part of this man's renewed hope".

As a General Service Representative, (GSR), the size of my A.A. windshield increased dramatically and so did the breathtaking moments. The position took me to District Meetings and Area Assemblies where I met and heard from hundreds of A.A.'s in service. As I heard of their breathtaking moments, I would have one of my own. The service opportunities relayed there led to many more for me. When I relayed these service opportunities to members of my home Group, those members found breathtaking moments of their own. From District Meetings and Area Assemblies, my "A.A. windshield" grew to include A.A. service events such as our annual Pacific Region A.A. Service Assembly, (PRAASA), and our biannual Regional Forums. These wider circles of A.A. experience led to a wider view of A.A. service opportunities and hearing of other trusted servants breathtaking moments.

As a new volunteer for a Public Information Committee, I was told of a need for a few of us to carry our message into the local Drinking Driver Program - no personal experience with D.U.I. required. Well......I did happen to have a bit of that experience; much too much experience with Drinking Driver Programs to ever again set foot in one. That's what my mind said. My mouth said "I'm available". Pairs of we committee members carried our message there in front of 20 or 30 folks, clients as they were called. The breathtaking moments didn't happen then. They happened down the road when clients from years past might recognize me and tell me they have a few years of sobriety, that A.A. has changed their life, and that A.A. presence at that D.U.I. program led them to our doors. "Thank you A.A. for the opportunity for me to play a small role in that."

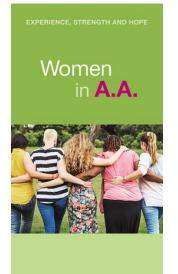
Space here does not allow recount of other breathtaking moments I have found in A.A. service. I suppose the keystone for me is that part of "life taking on a new meaning" is the awakening of the favorable parts of my spirit long dormant in the mire of destructive drinking. Joy, happiness, compassion, empathy, persistence, and more. Along with the awakening of favorable parts has been the reduction of unfavorable parts like fear, loneliness, despair. Today I see hope so I have hope. Service in A.A. has been a huge part of that. I've had some breathtaking moments in A.A. service and to me, more is always better. I have found there are always more opportunities through A.A. service.

Our Northern Nevada Intergroup has a dozen service committees all welcome to new volunteers for service opportunities. Our Northern Nevada General Service structure offers opportunities of equal scope with the same welcome mat out for new volunteers. A Service Sponsor can be helpful in navigating these waters but a simple phone call can open immediate doors. Better yet, just show up. Check the Bracer for dates and times. Looking forward to seeing you through a "wider A.A. windshield" and untold breathtaking moments in A.A. service. **ANONYMOUS, RENO, NV**

BOOK OF THE MONTH Pick up your copy today for ouly \$14.00 That's a savings of \$2.00!!!



A biography, with recollections of early A.A. in the Midwest PAMPHLE7 07 THE MONTH Read experience of other women in A.A.



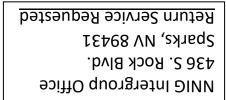
This is A.A. General Service Confe

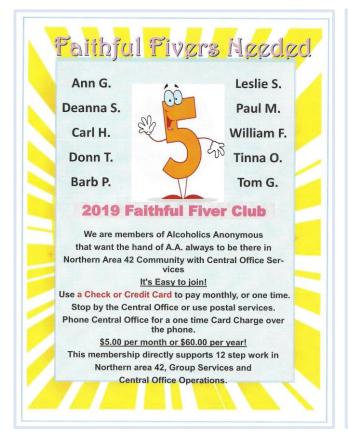
CALLING ALL LONGTIMERS!!!

DO YOU HAVE 35 YEARS OF SOBRIETY? IF SO, THE ARCHIVES WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

EACH MONTH, THE ARCHIVES WOULD LIKE TO PUT A LONGTIMER'S STORY IN THE BRACER. BUT WE NEED YOUR STORIES!!! CONTACT CYNDY: <u>FAITHGROWS95@GMAIL.COM</u> OR RONDA: 775-335-1151







Date		
New Renewal		
Donation for Electronic Version	I	
I cannot send a donation at this	s time but I would still l	ike to receive the
BRACER electronically	_	
Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
\$15 One Year - <u>Paper Versio</u> \$7 (Suggested) Yearly Dona Email us at Subscriptions <u>nn</u> Electronic Version of the BR/	tion – <u>Electronic Vers</u> igbracer@gmail.com	
	The BRACER	
NNIG	Intergroup Office	
43	36 S. Rock Blvd.	
Sp	arks, NV 89431	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	www.nnig.org	

NNIG BRACER SUBSCRIPTION FORM