

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



March 14, 2020
Dave S., CA
Fireside Men's Stag
Doors open at 6:30
Speaker at 7:00

Silver Legacy Baron Ballroom rooms 1-8

March, 2020

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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 Northern 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; Concept XII, as adopted by the General Service 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



The Bracer

NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

Tradition Three

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. - from the February 1948 Grapevine The Third Tradition is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous *so long as he says so*. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule. Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self-protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the fellow alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of AA was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any halfway mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity. So when he asks, "Are there any conditions?" we joyfully reply, "No, not a one." When skeptically he comes back saying, "But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe," we quickly answer, "In Alcoholics Anonymous there are no *musts*." Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, "What is this all going to cost me?" We are able to laugh and say, "Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues." Thus, in a brief hour, is our friend disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion. His eyes begin to open on a new world of friendship and understanding. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, "We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive." That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us. Our membership Tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight AA activities. One can think of no AA member who would like, for example, to see the formation of "dry" AA groups, "wet" AA groups, Republican AA groups, communist AA groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the AA name, even indirectly, to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that AA should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain. Let us of AA therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive and never exclusive, offering all we have to all, save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life--and a useful one!

A A's

Recovery Step Three:

*"Made a decision to turn
our will and our lives over
to the care of God as we
understood Him."*

Three

Unity Tradition Three:

*"The only requirement
for A.A. membership is
a desire to stop
drinking."*

Legacies

Service Concept Three:

*"To insure effective leadership, we
should endow each element of
A.A.-the Conference, the General
Service Board and its service
corporations, staffs, committees,
and executives - with a traditional
"Right of Decision."*

Concept III – Right of Decision Applies to all Levels of Participation in the Structure of A.A. World Services.

Right of Decision means that our A.A. trusted servants are expected to interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each problem situation or decision as it arises. Concept 3 makes it clear that when we are elected or appointed to a service job, we are given the responsibility to both represent the body that elected us while also making decisions based the best and most complete information available, and on what we see as best for A.A. as a whole. Here are two examples of situations where a group representative is called on to exercise this right of decision.

First: When presented with an issue or matter of concern, the service representative decides whether to bring this to the group he or she represents, based on such judgments as importance, urgency, whether the matter might or might not be of interest to the group, or whether the group's judgment is important in the overall decision of the Fellowship.

Second: After taking a group conscience about a matter, the representative follows up by taking the group's view to the next service level. In doing so, it is important to discuss and listen to others outside the represented group who may have additional knowledge, information, or views on the matter. When it comes to a voting decision at this next level, it is important to consider both the represented group's viewpoint and to be open to new and different ideas. By listening to all sources of information, and relying on his or her own principled judgment, the representative is able to make a more fully informed decision. In this sense, Concept 3 requires a representative to both speak up for the group and to listen closely and carefully to what others have to say.

Bill grants that the "right of decision" can be abused, but also discusses several methods of correcting abuse, inefficiency or ineffectiveness among our trusted servants. He is confident that we need not have the slightest fear of granting this right of decision to every level of world service.

If a trusted servant votes or otherwise decides differently from the conscience of the represented body, it is important to report this action back to that body, along with the reasons for it. I offer an example from my own experience as a GSR. I was asked to take a matter to my group, which I did. They expressed a group conscience to me. When I returned to the next service meeting, however, more information was presented. This changed my view on the topic and the way I voted. I explained how and why I voted this way at the next group business meeting. Some members of the group agreed with my action and others did not. Still, I was confident that I did my job as a trusted servant effectively as I was clear in my own conscience that I voted for what was in the best interest of A.A. as a whole.

As Bill says in his writing on the Concept, the right of decision is what makes us trusted servants in A.A. rather just group messengers.

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



March 14, 2020
Host Group- Fireside Men's Stag
Speaker- Dave S. Bermuda Dunes, CA
Location- Silver Barron room 1-6


April 11, 2020
Host Group- Carson City Brown Baggers
Speaker- June G. Los Angeles, CA
Location- Silver Barron room 1-6

May 9, 2020
Host Group- Southside Group
Speaker- Steve M. Reno, NV
Location- Circus Circus Hotel

June 13, 2020
Host Group- Sunnyside Group
Speaker- Diana M. Florida
Location- Silver Barron room 1-6


July 11, 2020
Host Group- Mt. Rose Recovery Room
Speaker- Susie B. Roseville, CA
Location- Silver Barron room 1-6


NNIG Speaker Chair: Chad S. (916) 295-8486
NNIG Speaker Co-Chair: Teresa D. (213) 448-3390
Need more info call: Central Office – (775) 355-1151
Join us for dinner at Millie's 24 inside the Eldorado @ 5pm






2020 Cabbage & Cribbage

Sunday March 15
12-6 pm California Bldg. Idlewild Park
Cribbage starts @ Noon - 2:30
Corned Beef @
2:30 - 4 pm
Speaker @ 4:15
Raffle Immediately following
Speaker
Tickets on sale now at Central Office
\$15
For more information please call
(775)355-1151
Contributions for Raffle Needed!!







Dr. Bob
Bill W.

FOUNDER'S DAY BOWERS MANSION WASHOE VALLEY

JUNE 13, 2020

COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY MARCH 21
10AM CENTRAL OFFICE

Call central office for more information 775-355-1151

MORE AREA EVENTS

2020

A



VISION FOR YOU

RENO SPRING FESTIVAL



March 27–29, 2020
Nugget Casino Resorts
Sparks, Nevada





40th Annual Northern California Woman to Woman Conference with Al-Anon Participation April 24, 25 & 26, 2020

Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova: (916) 638-1100
11211 Point E Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742
*Room rates \$124.00+taxes & fees; Conference rates good until Friday, March 27, 2020!
<https://book.passkey.com/event/49927793>

"WE WERE REBORN"
WOMAN TO WOMAN 2020
40TH ANNIVERSARY

Registration & Conference open at 3pm on Friday, April 24th
Don't miss "Big Book Trivia" from 6:00 - 7:00 pm Friday as well as the many topic meetings & workshops!

Main Speakers		
Friday - 8:00 pm	Tina A.	Torrance, CA
Saturday (Al-Anon) - 10:00 am	Sandi C.	Elk Grove, CA
Saturday - 1:00 pm	Mary D.	Elverta, CA
Saturday - 8:00 pm	Polly P.	Anaheim, CA
Sunday - 10:00 am	Hilda S.	Studio City, CA

Registration: Candice G. (209) 922-5290 Conference Chair: Heidi S. (916) 607-8986

Dear NNIG Fellowship, March 3, 2020

Central office report from Ronda H.

The book of the month is *Living Sober*, a great book for new comers and old timers alike. First published in 1975 the suggestions are still of great use today. We alcoholics have not changed. It is being offered with a \$1 off (\$8.00). The pamphlet of the month is *The Twelve Traditions Illustrated* (\$.55). A great, simple, easy read to introduce yourself or a new comer to the Twelve Traditions that keep us united. The office is still going great although the Saturday volunteer spot is open if anyone is interested please call me at the office.

Volunteer hours- 134.75

Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help - 14
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 2
- Meeting information- 49
- Retail/ merchandise- 13
- Other 12 step programs- 2
- Events - 5
- New to AA - 8
- Business/Central office- 72
- Total Calls- 165
- Visitors - 320

Ronda
Central Office Manager

The Birthday Club



No Birthdays
to report for
February

December 2019

Leslie S. 22 Years
Sean S. 30 Years

November 2018

Cheryl Z. 23 Years
Mike Mc. 34 Years

October 2019

Sharon F. 35 Years
Michael H. 24 Years
Ron T. 8 Years

September 2019

Danny S. 17 Years
Linda G. 27 Years
Phil S. 43 Years

July 2019

Paul M. 28 Years
Linda G. 27 Years
Joanne P. 7 Years



March 2019

Kent L. 37 Years
Rob L. 9 Years
Kimmy D. 42 Years
Joe R. 20 Years
William Mc 28 Years

May 2019

William Mc K. 30 Years

JUNE 2019

Ann G. 15 Years
Donn T 29 Years

Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the A.A. Birthday Club? Sign Up today be featured in the Bracer

Show your Support for your NNIG Central Office
and join the Birthday Club

A donation of only one dollar for every year of your Sobriety Birthday.

Envelopes available at Central Office,
NNIG Business Meeting or Intergroup Representatives

**THE STORIES IN
THE BACK
MONDAY, 5:30 PM
527 HUMBOLT ST
RENO, NV**

**Genoa 11th Step
Meditation
Genoa Historic
Church
Nixon Street
Tuesday 7:00 PM
Genoa, NV**

**CARING AND SHARING
in STEAD
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY,
FRIDAY
7:00 PM
14075 MOUNT VIDA ST
COTTER HALL**

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

EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY

**SUNDAY 4:00 PM
326 N. West Street
YERINGTON, NV**

**GRUPO UNA VISION
EN EL LAGO
LUNES, MIERCOLES Y
VIEMES 7:00 A 8:30 PM
DOMINGO DE 2:00 A
3:30PM
3320 SANDY WAY
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA**

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
2nd Saturday of the month

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

CABBAGE AND CRIBBAGE

MARCH 14, 2020
10:00 AM, CENTRAL OFFICE

FOUNDERS DAY PICNIC

MARCH 23, 2020
10:00 AM, CENTRAL OFFICE

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

DISTRICT 6 2nd Sunday of even numbered months-For
information email district6@nevadaarea42.org

DISTRICT 8 First Sunday, 3:30 p.m. on odd months
Call [\(760\) 937-8407](tel:7609378407)

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 Wed of each "Odd" month at 6:00 PM -265
Bear Street in Kings Beach CA

DISTRICT 16 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 Third Saturday of Jan, Mar, May, Aug & Oct
10:30 AM- Contact DCM @

district20@nevadaarea42.org for location
DISTRICT 22 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month 6:30 PM @
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 (775) 355-1151

Central Office Holiday Schedule

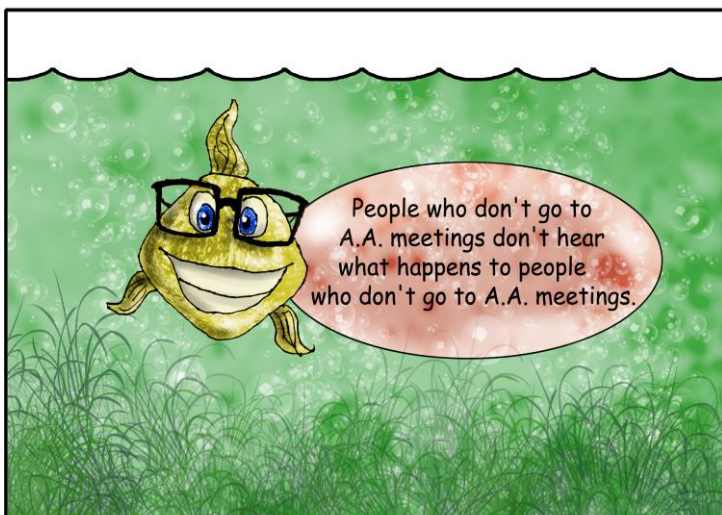
Monday May 25 - Memorial Day
Saturday June 13 - Founders Day
Friday July 4 - Independence Day
Monday September 7 - Labor Day
Friday October 30 - Nevada Day
Thursday & Friday November 26 & 27
Thanksgiving & Family Day
Thursday & Friday December 24 & 25
Christmas Eve & Christmas

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 nvbtgchair@gmail.com

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.



IN ORDER TO APOLOGIZE

An old-timer was going off in a meeting, explaining how the steps were numbered because they are meant to be worked in order. He went on to say that you can't skip ahead because that would be a formula for disaster. A newcomer carrying a pot of coffee was so captivated by the old-timer's narrative that she didn't watch where she was going and tripped. She accidentally spilled some of the hot coffee on the old-timer. Aghast, she stood there in horror as the old-timer waited at her, saying, "Aren't you even going to say you're sorry?" Stunned, the newcomer replied, "I would, but I'm not on Step Ten yet!"

John D., St. Cloud, Minn, January 2015

**"MARKINGS ON THE JOURNEY"
SCREENING, TALK AND
BREAKFAST**
WITH RHONDA F. NEVADA AREA 42 DELEGATE
9-10:30AM SATURDAY, MARCH 14
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ELY
701 AVENUE N, ELY, NV 89315

DISTRICT 19
NEVADA AREA 42
hereandnownv@gmail.com

OPEN MEETING
WELCOME AL-ANONS

"Markings on the Journey" takes you into the G.S.O. Archives and the history of A.A. Hear A.A. cofounder Bill W., Neil Wing (nonalcoholic), A.A.'s first archivist, and others tell the story of A.A. using archival video, audio, and photographs in this 35 minute documentary.

HAPPY JOYOUS & FREE

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.

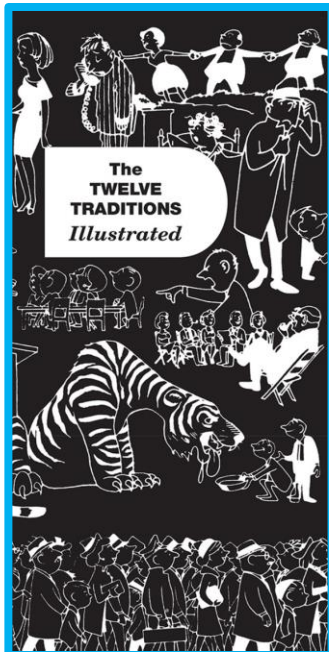
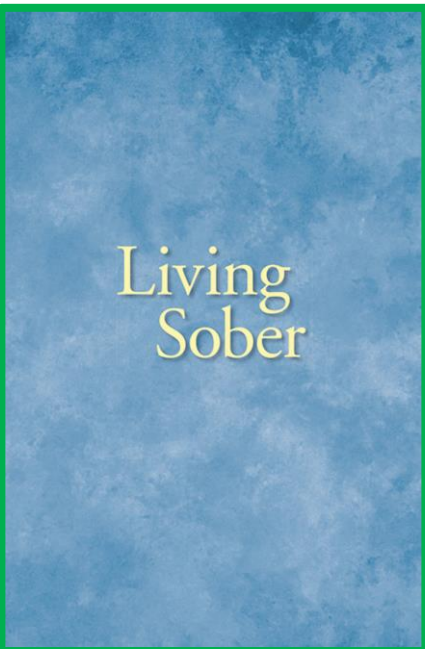
BUT WE NEED YOUR STORIES!!!

CONTACT CYNDY:

nnigarchives@GMAIL.COM
OR RONDA: 775-335-1151

BOOK OF THE MONTH
Pick up your copy today
\$1 off

PAMPHLET OF THE MONTH
Why It Works!



Long-Timer's Interview with Ray T.



*Interview conducted by
Cyndy M. November, 2019.
My name is Ray T.*

***How long have you been sober?** Since Nov. 7, 1974.*

***And where did you get sober?** In Concord, California.*

***And what brought you to Concord, California from Rhode Island?** I moved and did a geographical to get away from my family in the height of my drinking. In 1958, I moved from Rhode Island to California.*

***And when you made the move to get away from your family at the height of your drinking did it help or did you continue drinking?** I arrived in San Francisco on a plane. I'd never flown before. It was a prop plane and I arrived drunk and I continued my drinking.*

***Did you get a job out in California?** I transferred out here with an insurance company as an insurance adjuster and I worked for that company.*

***Did you get married?** I got out of here in 1958 and I got married in 1966 if I remember correctly.*

***So from 1958 until 1966 you were a bachelor? Were you just drinking and working?** I lived in Oakland, California and transferred down to Long Beach, California and then moved back to Oakland again and I was an alcoholic and a workaholic.*

***That's not much time to find a spouse was it?** She happened to be working for the company I was working for at the time.*

***And how long did you stay married?** 17 years.*

***And did you have children?** Five.*

***And what happened. Because you didn't get sober right away so was she a drinking partner?** She was not an alcoholic. She would take an occasional drink. It was a dysfunctional marriage. I was not welcome really at home and I had a lifestyle of working and drinking until the bars closed. Then I would go home and do that again the next day.*

***That's a tough lifestyle. So what made you decide to get sober?** I would drink and black-out. My lifestyle of drinking and blacking out on the daily basis I could forget my problems for a while. I had picked up a couple of drunk driving's and it didn't bother me. Finally, the alcohol stopped working. I was miserable not drinking and I was miserable drinking. The blackouts weren't working anymore.*

***Let me ask you something about the drunk driving. What was the penalty back then for drunk driving?** Drunk driving in those days was kind of easier than it is today. It was easier in terms of what it cost you. The first drunk driving I got, I got an attorney and got it reduced to a lighter sentence or a misdemeanor. Even the drunk driving was a misdemeanor but we got it reduced to reckless driving. Mainly this was because I didn't give them the test. They told me to give them a urine test and they took me to the hospital and when I got there I told them I couldn't urinate. The second drunk driving I'm trying to remember. I think I got three if I remember right. The second one I'm trying to remember where I was and what I was doing. The third drunk driving is when I finally realized that I needed to go to AA.*

***So how did you hear about AA because it wasn't as well known then as it is now?** My mother years ago, before I move to California said she knew he was a real nice guy, everybody liked him and he went to AA. In fact he was the president of the thing! That's all I knew about AA.*

***Was your mom talking about Bill Wilson?** No, she didn't know Bill Wilson. She didn't know what AA was. But I remembered that. When the alcohol stopped working I asked various people what I should do about my drinking because I didn't think I was an alcoholic. I didn't even give alcohol a thought. All I knew was that the alcohol wasn't working so I told people that I had this drinking problem and I was miserable and I didn't know if I wanted to live or die. I got as many answers as people I talk to. I talk to a pastor of a church and he told me to say the 23rd Psalm everyday which I did, but I still drank too. Finally I was in a Bible study of all things at this fellow's house and he was a nice guy. He was an attorney and professional man. He had a nice wife and kid. His name was Hal. I thought maybe Hal could help me because he had a good head on his shoulders. He gave me the answer about what to do with it. He said, "Go out and drink everyday but just have two drinks. Don't miss a day. And he said if you have to go to a wedding or something have your two drinks a day there." So I thought that was pretty good advice so I took Hal's good advice and went out and had two drinks every day. Then I thought to hell with Hal! So back to Hal I went and said, "This isn't working for me." And Hal said to me. "Ray you don't have a drinking problem, you have a following instruction problem because you had more than two!" So back and forth I went to Hal several times and I finally picked up another drunk driving. After that, when I got out of jail the next day I think it was, I*

got a hold of Hal and said, "Hal, this isn't working for me. I will go to AA." He said, "Ray, I've been in AA for years. I didn't want you to go to your first meeting drunk or caught short." I thank God for Hal because when I walked into the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous I didn't even give it a second thought that I was... I didn't know what alcoholism was but I knew I couldn't control my drinking. Hal prove that to me.

***I'm a little stunned. That's amazing. Did Hal tell you what meeting to go to?** No, I called Alcoholics Anonymous. I looked up the phone number and I called the central office I guess I was living in Antioch, California which is in Contra Costa County. The central office was in Long Creek. I asked them about meetings. I wasn't going to go to a meeting in Antioch because that was where I lived. So I went to my first meeting to 15 miles down the road in Concord, California. It was a mixed discussion meeting if I remember right. **So back then where most of the meetings open meetings or closed meetings?** There were open, closed, women's meetings and men's meetings. It was the same then as it is now.*

***Were there a lot of people there?** The first meeting I went to there were about 20 people there. Now I forget if it was a mixed meeting or an open meeting or what it was but I remember that meeting clearly and what went on there.*

***So what is it that you heard that struck you the most?** What struck me the most at that first meeting? They talked about alcoholism at that first meeting in and they explained to me the disease of alcoholism. They explained that it was a progressive, degenerative fatal disease. I remember that they said if you walk like a duck and quack like a duck and you're around other ducks chances are you're a duck. I thought about my life and everybody I knew. Most of the people that I worked with we all drank every day for sure. We would go out in San Francisco to some fancy restaurant to eat and get drunk. They would go home but I knew where the after-hours clubs were and I wanted to go do some serious drinking after being with them. And that was my lifestyle. So when they said that at the first meeting about the people I hung around with I was sure I was quacking like an alcoholic and hanging around other alcoholics. When I left that meeting after they explain the disease of alcoholism to me I was relieved in one way because I knew I had a disease. I knew what was causing it and I knew that because Hal told me I shouldn't be drinking because I was an alcoholic. I walked out of that meeting knowing that I was an alcoholic. There was a new guy there named Dan and Danny had a Big Book in his hand and he said, "Get one of these." He was excited about that. I guess Danny was about 14 or 15 years and I took Danny's advice and took that Big Book. When I traveled around town I would read the Big Book. Probably about 8 months or a year after that, Danny didn't come into the meetings anymore because Danny went out and drank and died. This is a fatal disease and Danny died. I thought the world of Danny.*

***How did your family respond to you going to AA?** My wife at the time was furious when I sobered up. She did everything under her power to get me to drink.*

***How about the kids? How did they feel?** They were young so they didn't have so much to say. In '74 my oldest one was... she was born in '66 so she was about eight.*

***How about your friends? How did they react to you getting sober? To you saying I drink too much. I am an alcoholic?** If I could count my friends, I could count them on one hand I guess. I didn't have any friends. I just had the people at work. That was my lifestyle. I had no friends. So about the people at work. I tried to keep it anonymous but I think everybody knew. My boss would come out and there was a fellow who would come into the office and my boss would say, "Don't trust Ray. Ray doesn't drink." My boss lost a drinking buddy. We would get drunk sometimes. After about a year-and-a-half or two years, this guy came into the office and said, "Ray is okay even though he doesn't drink." My boss never did anything about his drinking.*

***Did you stay with that company? Did you retire from that company?** Yeah I worked for that company for over 25 years or so. But that was not the company I came to California with. I changed and this was the third company. Funny thing is I interviewed this company and I would see people punching a time clock so I picked up my briefcase and walked out of the office and didn't go on with the interview. Five years later, I interviewed with them again and went to work for them because the company I was working for wanted me to take a job in their New York office which was the headquarters. I didn't want to move from San Francisco to New York.*

***So you started going to meetings and reading the Big Book. Did you get a sponsor?** I went to meetings every day. They said go and I did 90 meetings in 90 days. So I went to meetings every day and sometimes went to more than one meeting a day. The Concord Fellowship was open 24 hours a day and they never locked the door, so I would go to meetings there and on the weekends I'd go on there. I would be there until it was time to go home to bed. AA became my life at the Concord Fellowship. After I sobered up, there were a couple of old-timers there that were pissing me off. After the meeting*

Continued on page 10

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2020

<u>Group</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
3rd Tradition Secular Group		50.00	Happy Hour Reno		
Alano Afternoon Serenity			Incline Village Fellowship		
Alano Brown Baggers			Incline to be Sober		
Alano Dawn Patrol			Jamesville Moment to Moment		
Alano Jaywalkers			Kings Beach AA Golden Group		468.00
Alano Sunday Morning Speaker			Ladies of the Evening		
Alano Sunshine Group			Ladies of the Lake		57.75
Alano Women in Recovery			Mammoth Good Life Group	50.00	50.00
Amen Maintenance Meeting			McGill NV Freedom Group		75.00
Austin Group			Minden Language of the Heart	40.00	40.00
Back Room Group			Minden Saturday Night Fever		
Back to Basics Saturday Night	102.60	102.60	Minden Stephanie Way Group		
Blairsdan Graeagle Sister in Recovery			Minden/Gardnerville Group		145.60
Battle Mountain Fellowship	15.00	15.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		
Blue Canyon Airport group			Mt Rose Recovery Room	152.54	285.62
Caring & Sharing in Stead			NNIG Business Meeting	27.00	50.50
Carlin Crystal Light Group			Our Common Welfare		
Carson AA Way of Life			Out and Sober		37.00
Carson After Shifters			Our Group Big Book	25.00	25.00
Carson Airport			Portola Group		
Carson Big Book Experience			Positive Acceptance Group		157.20
Carson Brown Baggers		986.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group	15.00	15.00
Carson Early Birds		405.54	RTC Afternoon Delight		20.00
Carson Happy Hour			RTC Almost Heaven	50.00	75.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's			RTC Beginners are Winners		350.00
Carson Language of the Heart			RTC Aloha Group		
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		78.41	RTC How We Stay Stopped		
Carson Sandbaggers	200.00	300.00	RTC Just for Today Women		135.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety		50.00	RTC Coffee with Bill		
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station		66.40	RTC Little Rascals		50.00
Carson Sunday Night Step Study			RTC Big Book Study		
Carson Valley Gratitude			RTC Men's Trudgers		
Chester Saturday Night Group		75.40	RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting		
Choices	50.00	100.00	RTC Grapevine/Big Book		
Cornerstone Group			RTC Monday Night Men's		
Dayton Fellowship Hall			RTC New Awakenings Group		159.10
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62			RTC Mid-Day Group		
Dayton Sunday Morning	46.25	46.25	RTC Seniors in Sobriety		
Disdriect 2	14.00	30.00	RTC Sober N Sane		
District 12			RENVPA		445.60
District 14	100.00	150.00	Sisters in Sobriety		
District 22	27.00	74.00	Silver Springs Groups		40.00
District 6			Sisters of Sobriety		
Driars 4th Dimension	125.00	125.00	Sober Readers		
Driar's Positive Step			Sierra City		
Driar's Support Hose			South Shore Group		60.00
Fallon Language of the Heart			Southside Group	202.15	500.37
Eye Opener			Serenity Sisters Big Book	111.10	111.10
Fallon Sunlight of the Spirit			South Reno on Sunday		
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch			Step 1		50.00
Fernley Groups			Susanville Fellowship		
Fireside Group			Susanville Wed Womens		
Galena Friday Night		308.00	Sunnyside Group	560.00	560.00
Ground Zero		181.50	Susanville Thursday Night		
Grupo Accion	20.00	20.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		20.00
Grupo Fe Y Esoeranza			The Rock Group		104.50
Grupo La Nueva Luz	20.00	40.00	Truckee River Men's Stag		500.00
Grupo Latino		20.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Grupo Nueva Vida			Truckee Fellowship		
Grupo Solo Por Hoy			The Twilight Zone		45.00
			Verdi Bookies		
			Virginia City Plug in the Jug		
			Wed Night Beginners		
			Westwood AA		75.00
			Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		375.00
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		30.00
			Women's 24 Hours A Day		108.81
			Women's New Beginnings	184.00	184.00
			Women's New Harmony	150.00	150.00
			Women Down and Dirty		
			Total	2,286.64	8,779.25

March 2020**March 14, 2020**

“Markings on the Journey”
screening, talk and breakfast
9-10:30 AM
701 Avenue N, Ely, NV

March 15, 2020

Cabbage and Cribbage
12-6 PM
Idlewild Park, California Building
\$15.00 per person. Tickets
available at Central Office

March 27-29, 2020

Area 42 Pre-conference Assembly
Tonopah Convention Center

March 27-29

Reno Spring Festival
Sparks Nugget

March 31, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
Central Office
5:30 PM

April, 2020**April 6, 2020**

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

April 27, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
Central Office
5:30 PM

May 2020**May 4, 2020**

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

May 26, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
5:30 PM
Central Office

JUNE 2020**June 2, 2020**

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

June 13, 2020

Founders Day Picnic
Bowers Mansion

June 13, 2020

NAGSC Meeting
Location TBD

June 29, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
5:30 PM
Central Office

JULY 2020**July 7, 2020**

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

July 16-19

Serenity in the Sierras XXXI

July 28, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
5:30 PM
Central Office

AUGUST 2020**August 4, 2020**

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

August 8, 2020

NAGSC Meeting
Location TBD

August 21-23

Pacific Region Forum
3000 Paradise Road
Las Vegas, NV

August 25, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
5:30 PM
Central Office

SEPTEMBER 2020**September 1, 2020**

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

September 18, 19 and 20

Tonopah Convention Center
Area 42 Fall Assembly

September 29, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
5:30 PM
Central Office

OCTOBER 2020**October 2, 3 and 4th**

Sierra Nevada Fall Roundup

October 6, 2020

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

October 27, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
5:30 PM
Central Office

NOVEMBER 2020**November 3, 2020**

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

November 24, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
5:30 PM
Central Office

DECEMBER 2020**December 1, 2020**

NNIG Business Meeting
1640 Prater Way, Sparks
6:30 PM

December 19, 2020

District 16 Christmas Affair

December 29, 2020

NNIG Steering Committee Meeting
5:30 PM

they would say, "Meet me tomorrow morning for a drink," and they didn't invite me. I'd go down there the next day and they'd be at the meeting. Finally it dawned on me what they were doing. They were telling me, "You just worry about today. It's a day at a time program and we don't worry about tomorrow." After I was in the program and was sober for and not drinking for months, maybe even over a year (the time is a little not clear in my mind) I went on what I would call a "dry drunk." I drove around all the bars. Some were closed and some were open. I didn't go in the door of any of the open. I don't know why I did that because the Concord Fellowship was open 24 hours a day so I walked into the Fellowship. Of course nobody was there and I sat down and I looked at the sides at the wall that said "One Day at a Time," that's all we have and I thought, "What have I not done? What have I not done that these people have been telling me? It dawned on me I didn't have a sponsor. So that was a Friday and I went home and Saturday morning I went down there and there was a man named Earl who had a good head on his shoulders. I asked Earl if he would be my sponsor. He worked at a shop and he had some work to do. He said, "Why don't you come to work with me today." It was Saturday so the shop was closed and he spent the day with me and he turned my life around.

And how long was he your sponsor? He was my sponsor oh, I never did fire him. But I didn't have much of a social life if you know what I mean so I found another guy who was in the program who was about my sobriety. Dave had about maybe six months more than I did and I asked him to be my sponsor and he said he would and he said Earl was his sponsor too and that they used to drink together in the back in the day. Dave was 50% American Native from the Miami Tribe. I don't think Dave graduated from high school but he had a lot of common sense and a good head on his shoulders. Dave and I became best friends along with his wife Dorothy. I kept Dave for a sponsor until he died. That was about 12 years ago I think. I was in the Verdi Valley and I used to go to meetings there. I ask this fella that had long-term, more sobriety than I had, to be my sponsor. He said, "Ray with your sobriety you don't need a sponsor." He was wrong. Everybody needs a sponsor. So eventually I had to leave my wife and we were most motor-homing full-time so I gave her the motor-home. I got a car and I moved near Laughlin near the river because the hotels were cheaper there. I went to the Alano Club for Thanksgiving dinner. They told me there was an AA Conference in Vegas, so I went to Vegas and I didn't know what to do with myself so I went to Flagstaff. I always like Flagstaff. I got a hotel there until I got an apartment. There was this fellow in Flagstaff named Sam who had a good head on his shoulder. He had a lot less sobriety than I do, but I asked Sam to be my sponsor and Sam is my sponsor now. I don't think you need to sponsor that has as much or more time than you do. I think you need somebody that you can relate to that has a good program that has a good head on their shoulder that you can trust. That's what my three sponsors had. I could trust them.

So when did you get to Reno? After I got the divorce from my second wife, I lived in Flagstaff for 6 months but I had to leave because the divorce was in Texas. We were full-time motor-homers registered in Texas with a motor-home club called the Escapees. So I moved to Texas because I didn't want the venue to be changed. I had to get out of Arizona in 6 months. So after I got divorced, I motor-homed alone for a couple of years. I used to come to Reno to drink when I was drinking because I was living in California in the Bay Area. And I had two children in Reno, a son and daughter. My daughter Krista, she's in the program, and my son lived in Reno. I would have bought in Flagstaff but I came to Reno and bought this house and put a couple of hunks of furniture in it and took off motor-homing. Then after a while I was driving on the road and started thinking, "I was too old to be doing motor-homing stuff," and I moved here about eight years ago. I bought the house 7 years ago.

When you were doing the motor-homing and traveling you were able to go to a lot of different meetings in different states? Was there any place that stood out to you as having as either really good meetings or not-so-good meetings? The only good thing about motor-homing and AA is that there were meetings all over. Wherever I was going, before I got there or shortly after I got there, I would look up meetings. I did this on the internet and I would call central office to find out the times and places. I always went to a lot of meetings. My second wife asked me why I was going to so many meetings and I told her that people don't know what happens to people who don't go to meetings. I find that what really stood out to me and still does is that our program, thank G-d has the traditions. The meetings are the same wherever you go. The people setting up the tables are the same. We have in common the one thing we all have, which is that we have a desire to drink and can't drink because we cannot control our drinking. Other than that, we come from all walks of life and we enjoy sitting next to each other. I like to think we are like a can of mixed nuts. But the meetings are the same because we're all alcoholics and we think with our alcoholic mind and we have that alcoholic way. We have similar experiences and we share with one another which

keeps us sober. I went to a meeting up in Canada and they said, "Are there any visitors here?" It was a large meeting probably about 80 people there so I put up my hand and they said, "Good you're the one that is going to share tonight." It was a speaker meeting. I hadn't really spoke much but I toughed it out. The second night I went to the meeting and they said, "Are there any visitors here?" I put up my hand and they said, "You're the speaker." The third night I went to a meeting and they asked if there were any visitors and I didn't put my hand up! (Laughter). I found if I couldn't find a meeting in the city I was traveling in I would go first to the fire department because chances are there's an alcoholic in there and they know where the meetings were. If that didn't work, I would go to the police station and they knew where the meetings were. I have two home groups. My first home group is Happy Hour and that meets on Tuesdays and Fridays over on Foster by the high school. And the second group is in Verdi and it's a meeting on Sunday nights. That's a good meeting.

So you really still travel to go to your home group because both of those are quite of a distance from your home? When I wanted to drink I would drive 50-60 miles to get a drink and not even think about it. That's what I was told. If you could drive for a drink, you could drive for a meeting.

Is there any significant change that you see in AA from when you came in until now that you think is a good change? Is there any progress that we've made that you think has benefited new alcoholics coming in? Undoubtedly there's more meetings because there are more people. We have more meetings and that's beneficial. I think that when you think about it there's a lot of recovery homes. We go to those and I think that's good. I think there's less opportunity for 12-step calls because I could remember when I was first in the program my sponsor took me to my first 12 step call at a fellow's house. I don't think we have that. I think in groups now it is just natural for a few people to get together and know one another good and some go out to dinner afterwards or for coffee. I think there was more of that when I came in to the program. I think I went out to coffee after every meeting and we would talk about things. I remember I was at one meeting and there was a time when there were newcomers like myself that would be there. I had left my wife and felt some security because I took the savings book. I came to find out that she wiped out the savings account without the book. I was sharing this at a meeting and these guys had a little sense of humor so they said, "Do you got any change in your pocket?" They said, "Take it out and rub it together." And I said, "What is this for?" They said, "It's all yours!" We'd go to Denny's or to some restaurant around and we would talk for about 3 or 4 hours after the meeting. That was really good Fellowship. What really helped me when I first came into the program was that there were for about four of us that we get together and do things on the weekends. Four guys. We used to go camping and fishing and we would bring the AA books with us and those Hazleton books with us too- the black one and the red one and the 24-hour book. We would talk about our problems and how terrible our lives were and all kinds of things. But we stayed sober. We kind of had equal sobriety and they all stayed sober. I don't know one of them who went out. One of them passed away now but none of us got drunk. I don't know that we do that as much now, although maybe some because you know some of the women get together and go to a ball game and stuff. *We used to go to the AA campout too.* **Is there any change that you feel is not so good for AA as a whole?** I can't really think of any changes that's really bad for AA. I think there could be more communication with what's going on in the district and reasons for it. In the meetings there was allowed crosstalk. I think in a small meeting a certain amount of it is okay, but in a large meeting you should stick to AA and not get into a discussion about what's going on out there in the world or marriage counseling or relationship issues. I think one of the dangers and one of the happenings in AA that is bad is gossip. I think we need to be aware of gossip and how damaging it is. Particularly when somebody goes out and has a slip and now the group gets together and start talking about this person. They're an alcoholic doing what alcoholics do. It is a disease! *So is there anything else that you want to add before we wrap this up?* No. I think we have very good AA here in this district and in this region. We have the 24-hour answering service run by alcoholics which is a good advantage. Anyone who does volunteer stuff like answering the phone is doing 12-step work. Going to a meeting is 12-step work by being present at the meeting.

You sponsor people? I do. I don't sponsor very many but I have sponsees. I brought a fella to a meeting down in Concord, California. I guess he has about 32-33 years of sobriety now and we're still friends. And there's another one I'm going to go see next week back in Cape Cod that has 30 years. I didn't sponsor him the all 30 years but I met him in Gold Beach, Oregon at a meeting. We was from Massachusetts and he was at Gold Beach and he had a little problem and we started talking about it and we became close friends. I think one of the biggest blessings we have in AA is one another.

Thank you very much Ray

August 21-23, 2020

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The Birthday Club



**No Birthdays
to report for
February**



<p>December 2019 Leslie S. 22 Years Sean S. 30 Years</p> <p>November 2018 Cheryl Z. 23 Years Mike M. 34 Years</p> <p>October 2019 Sharon F. 35 Years Michael H. 24 Years Ron T. 8 Years</p> <p>September 2019 Danny S. 17 Years Linda G. 27 Years Phil S. 43 Years</p> <p>July 2019 Paul M. 28 Years Linda G. 27 Years Joanne P. 7 Years</p>	<p>February Joan H. 48 Years Joe R. 20 Years William M. 28 Years</p> <p>March 2019 Ken L. 37 Years Rob L. 9 Years Kimmy D. 42 Years Joe R. 20 Years William M. 28 Years</p> <p>May 2019 William M. K. 30 Years</p> <p>JUNE 2019 Ann G. 15 Years Don T. 29 Years</p>
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