

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



June 13
ID# 5243839936
Host Group NNIG
Jason R., Reno, NV
Speaker at 7:00

Silver Legacy - Silver Baron Room 1-8
Room Space is limited, if you wish to attend,
contact Chad S. 916-295-8486

June, 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 **CLOSED**

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Founders Day

June 10, 1935 it all began, Dr. Bob's last drink. What is Founder's Day and why is it so important? Bill W. was on a short-term job to Akron, Ohio. In the lobby of his hotel, he finds himself fighting the urge to join the conviviality in the bar. Bill consults a church post on the all with the aim of finding someone who might lead him to an alcoholic with whom he could talk. A phone call was made to Episcopal minister Rev. Walter Tunks gave a referral to Henrietta Seiberling, a committed Oxford Group Adherent who has tried for two years to bring a fellow group member, a prominent Akron surgeon, to sobriety.

Dr. Bob lapses into drinking again but quickly recovers. The day widely known as the date of Dr. Bob's last drink, June 10, 1935, is celebrated as the founding date of Alcoholics Anonymous. Dr. Bob and Bill spend hours working out the best approach to alcoholics, a group known to be averse to taking directions. Realizing that thinking of sobriety for one day at a time makes it seem more achievable than facing a lifetime of struggles. Hence, the twenty-four-hour concept began.

AA's

Recovery Step Six:

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

Three

Unity Tradition Six:

"An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Legacies

Service Concept Six:

The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Concept VI – A.A. Functions Democratically in Principle While Also Following a Corporate Model in Its Business Operations.

The first five Concepts provide the foundation for Alcoholics Anonymous to operate democratically as a fellowship. Then, in Concept VI, Bill adds discussion of how A.A. at the level of its world services is also a very large business. He introduces the "corporate model" as the basis for A.A. business operations.

A.A. is both a fellowship and a corporation? How complicated is that? It's beginning to sound like Bill had never heard of KISS. I now also needed to figure out why A.A. has and needs two operational sides, working closely together--both the General Service Conference and the General Service Board. Then I was told to read on through Concepts 6, 7, and 8 to really understand.

Bill elaborates on what he means by the "corporate model", saying that "Our Trustees must function almost exactly like the directors of any large business corporation. They must have ample authority to effectively manage and conduct A.A.'s business." Aha! I am beginning to understand. A simple way to think of this is that the A.A. General Service Conference is critical to our working harmoniously together as a fellowship, while the General Service Board, the Trustees, assures that we follow sound business practices, although these purposes do overlap.

Bill says that our Trustees need to be given a wide latitude of judgment and action. They need this because we A.A.'s are holding them mainly responsible for all our service activities. The Trustees have the legal and practical responsibility for the operation of A.A. World Services, Inc. which embraces A.A. publishing as well as the General Service Office, and of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc. These entities have a combined cash flow of many millions of dollars annually. The Trustees are also responsible for A.A.'s public information activities. They are the guardians of the Twelve Traditions. They are responsible for carrying the A.A. message to countries around the world. They are A.A.'s "bankers", overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.'s substantial Reserve Fund. They are busy people who hold a great deal of responsibility for the effectiveness of A.A. workings.

Who are these Trustees to whom we give such authority? They fall into two categories: Class A and Class B. Class A Trustees are persons who are not and have not been afflicted by the disease of alcoholism and who express a profound faith in the recovery program upon which A.A. was founded. They are persons who have been friends of A.A., including members of professions such as medicine, law, the clergy, finance, or any other field that may have occasion to work with alcoholics, and whose personal and/or professional expertise and dedication can be invaluable to our Fellowship. Class B Trustees are sober A.A. members who have been nominated through our General Service committees and usually are members who have been deeply involved in A.A. service.

All Trustee nominations, Class A and Class B, are approved by the General Service Conference. Trustees serve a limited term. All serve as volunteers with no monetary payment. Each serves out of a 'labor of love' for Alcoholics Anonymous.

I have learned through the study of Concept VI that the General Service Board Trustees give us assurance that our business matters, particularly, are well taken care of. I am confident that the Trustees will perform their tasks effectively, guard our Traditions well, and serve our A.A. Society throughout the world. This ultimately frees me to devote my attention to carrying out our Fellowship's primary purpose found in Tradition Five--to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

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

NNIG & AREA EVENTS

EVENTS HOSTED BY NORTHERN NEVADA
INTERGROUP TO SUPPORT CENTRAL OFFICE

INTO ACTION!

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN JULY

Keep your group informed! NNIG committee & co-chair positions are available. No experience needed. Sobriety time requirements may be waived. **Get into service and help give back to the fellowship.** NNIG business meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. **POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR ELECTIONS July 7, 2020**

POSITIONS SOBRIETY REQUIRED

Steering Committee

CHAIRPERSON	5 Years
VICE-CHAIR	5 Years
SECRETARY	2 Years
TREASURER	5 Years
2-INTERGROUP REPS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE	N/A

NNIG Chairpersons

Activities Events - Chair	4 Years
Answering Service - Chair	2 Years
Cooperation with the Professional Community - Chair	2 Years
Monthly Speaker Meeting - Chair	2 Years
Public Information - Chair	2 Years
Sunshine Committee - Chair	2 Years
Web Site - Chair	2 Years
Bridging the Gap - Chair	2 Years
Corrections - Chair	2 Years
Treatment - Chair	2 Years

Elections will be a Hybrid meeting, in person at the Alano Club, Sparks and on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 296 805 0240
Password: BillW

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



June 13, 2020
Host Group- NNIG
Speaker - Jason R. Reno, NV
Location- Silver Barron room 1-6

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

August 15th, 2020
Host Group- Happy Hour
Speaker Pete L. Reno, NV
Location- Silver Barron room 1-6

September 12, 2020
Host Group- Just for today
Speaker- Debbie D. Concord, CA
Location- Silver Barron room 1-6

October 10, 2020
Host Group- Keep it simple
Speaker- Del Baker, San Diego, 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

Area 42 Chair is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Delegate's Report

Time: Jun 14, 2020 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94701363883?pwd=aXNOaEFQaDFZY3pFMFlqVmZPNUJPUT09>

Meeting ID: 947 0136 3883
Password: 103903

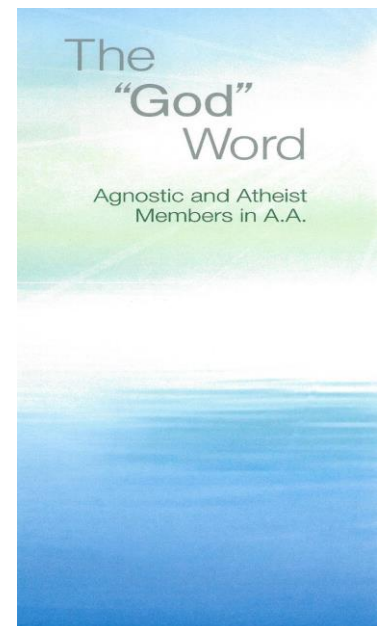
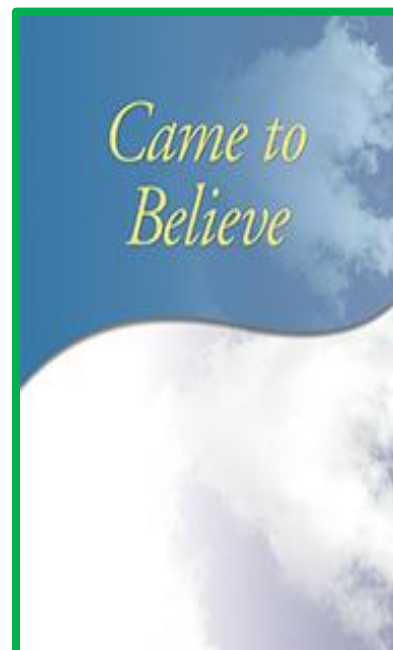
BOOK OF THE MONTH
Pick Up Your Copy Today \$1.00 off

PAMPHLET OF THE MONTH
Pick Up Your Copy Today \$0.45

MORE AREA EVENTS

The Driars Club and The Alano Club are open and available for meetings.

For Live, in-person meetings, check with Central Office. They are keeping a list of all meetings currently open.



Central office report from Ronda H. June 2, 2020

The fellowship has been very generous this month in keeping the office going with contributions. Thank You, Thank You! I am not surprised by the giving spirit of our fellowship. Love and tolerance is our code. The insurance was renewed last month for the next year. Most of the volunteers are happily back in the office. Merchandise has been getting low but we are keeping A.A. conference approved literature and anniversary chips in stock. If anyone needs anything I will, of course, get it. I would like to give a special thank you to Joseph for all the help with the computer that kept crashing. **THANK YOU!** As meetings come back live we will keep an ongoing list. When your meeting resumes, please call us at the office. The book of the month is "Came to Believe" and the pamphlet is "The GOD word" no matter where you are with your spirituality there is a place for you in A.A. We are also giving a free book mark with any purchase.

Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help - 16
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 0
- Meeting information- 95
- Retail / merchandise- 28
- Other 12 step programs- 0
- Events - 0
- New to AA - 0
- Business/Central office- 75
- Total Calls-215
- Visitors - 129

Ronda
Central Office Manager



THE BIRTHDAY CLUB

May Birthdays!

John L. 33 Years
Donn T. 30 Years
Bill Mc K. 31 Years

That's 94 Years!!!
Happy Birthday!

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 Birthday Club section of the Bracer

Show your Support for your NNIG & Central Office, join the Birthday Club. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety. Envelopes available at Central Office, NNIG Business Meeting or Intergroup Representatives

April
Paul M. 29 years
Linda S. 15 years
Ron T. 9 years
Susanne T. 26 years
Skip 20 years
March
Kent L. 35 years
December 2019
Leslie S. 22 years
Sean S. 30 years
November 2019
Cheryl Z. 23 years
Mike Mc. 34 years
October 2019
Sharon F. 33 years
Michael H. 24 years
September 2019
Denny S. 17 years
Linda G. 27 years
Phil S. 43 years

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

Genoa 11th Step
Meditation
Genoa Historic
Church

CARING AND SHARING
in STEAD
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY,
FRIDAY

Go to NNIG.org for current info
and to find the ZOOM number
for your group!

Stay home for Nevada and stay safe,
until we meet again!

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

VIEMES 7:00 A 8:30 PM
DOMINGO DE 2:00 A
3:30PM
3320 SANDY WAY
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA

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

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



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

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

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

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 nvbtqchair@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.

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



For the generous group contributions
and to all the individuals for supporting
Our NNIG Central Office
during this trying time!



NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2020

<u>Group</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
3rd Tradition Secular Group		50.00	Happy Hour Reno	20.00	142.50
A Vision for You	103.00	103.00	Incline Village Fellowship		
Alano Afternoon Serenity			Incline to be Sober		
Alano Brown Baggers			Jamesville Moment to Moment		
Alano Dawn Patrol			Kings Beach AA Golden Group		468.00
Alano Jaywalkers		48.60	Ladies of the Evening	58.77	58.77
Alano Sunday Morning Speaker			Ladies of the Lake		67.75
Alano Sunshine Group			Mammoth Good Life Group		50.00
Alano Women in Recovery			McGill NV Freedom Group		75.00
Amen Maintenance Meeting			Minden Language of the Heart		40.00
Austin Group			Minden Saturday Night Fever	300.00	300.00
Back Room Group			Minden Stephanie Way Group	120.00	120.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night		172.60	Minden/Gardnerville Group		145.60
Blairsdan Graeagle Sister in Recovery			Minden Wednesday Night Live		
Battle Mountain Fellowship		15.00	Mt Rose Recovery Room	40.00	966.30
Blue Canyon Airport group			NNIG Business Meeting		72.00
Caring & Sharing in Stead	80.00	198.76	Our Common Welfare		84.15
Carlin Crystal Light Group			Out and Sober		37.00
Carson AA Way of Life			Our Group Big Book		25.00
Carson After Shifters			Portola Group		
Carson Airport			Positive Acceptance Group		157.20
Carson Big Book Experience			Pyramid Way Discussion Group		15.00
Carson Brown Baggers		986.00	RTC Afternoon Delight		40.00
Carson Early Birds	4.59	737.88	RTC Almost Heaven		125.00
Carson Happy Hour	300.00	300.00	RTC Beginners are Winners		350.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's			RTC Aloha Group	48.60	48.60
Carson Language of the Heart			RTC How We Stay Stopped		80.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		78.41	RTC Just for Today Women		135.00
Carson Sandbaggers		510.00	RTC Coffee with Bill		
Carson Sisters in Sobriety		50.00	RTC Little Rascals		50.00
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station		66.40	RTC Big Book Study		
Carson Sunday Night Step Study			RTC Men's Trudgers		
Carson Valley Gratitude			RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting		
Chester Saturday Night Group		142.90	RTC Grapevine/Big Book		
Choices		100.00	RTC Monday Night Men's	100.00	100.00
Cornerstone Group			RTC New Awakenings Group		330.04
Dayton Fellowship Hall			RTC Mid-Day Group		
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62			RTC Seniors in Sobriety		50.00
Dayton Sunday Morning		46.25	RTC Sober N Sane		
District 2		39.00	RENVPA		445.60
District 12			Sisters in Sobriety		
District 14	50.00	250.00	Silver Springs Groups		40.00
District 22		212.00	Sisters of Sobriety		
District 6			Sober Readers		
Deer Park Rebels	750.00	1102.00	Sierra City		
Driars 4th Dimension	50.00	175.00	South Shore Group		60.00
Driar's Positive Step			Southside Group	158.60	922.80
Driar's Support Hose			Serenity Sisters Big Book		111.10
Fallon Language of the Heart			South Reno on Sunday	40.00	118.34
Eye Operner		63.00	Step 1		50.00
Fallon Sunlight of the Spirit			Susanville Fellowship		
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch			Susanville Wed Womens		
Fernley Groups			Sunnyside Group	4.59	564.59
Fireside Group	20.00	120.00	Susanville Thursday Night		
Galena Friday Night		308.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		20.00
Ground Zero		392.50	The Rock Group		104.50
Grupo Accion		20.00	Truckee River Men's Stag	20.00	1756.00
Grupo Fe Y Esoeranza			Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Grupo La Nueva Luz		40.00	Truckee Fellowship		
Grupo Latino		20.00	The Twilight Zone		105.00
Grupo Nueva Vida			Verdi Bookies		
Grupo Solo Por Hoy		20.00	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
			Women's New Harmony		150.00
			Women Down and Dirty		
			Total		15,720.95

This is an interview with John F. My sobriety date this time is June 26, 1976. I had a good deal of sobriety before that time. I originally came into AA. On February 10, 1962 in Honolulu. I had a good sponsor and I really liked AA. My original sponsor went and moved to San Francisco and got married to a woman. He had strong, solid sobriety and she didn't. I think her family was wealthy and they obviously approved of Van. He was back and forth for a while and we lost touch for a little bit. And then I started going to a meeting that Van called the Slippers Meeting because it was that's exactly what it was.

Just after I was sober 5 years, I lived in Honolulu at the time, (and I was a lot younger than that I am now) I was walking down the street called Kalikow Avenue where people hang out. There were a lot of little bars then, now there are hotels. I looked in the window and there were all these lovely young tourists. I thought I was sober a long enough time and I thought, although I knew better back then and I thought I could have a couple of beers. That it couldn't have hurt anything. It was like a glass of water when I ordered a beer and then I decided to have another and you know where it went. Shortly after that I met what is now my current wife. Fortunately at the time I was drinking so I had all this liquid courage. I wasn't drinking a lot, but I was drinking enough. Within a year we got married. She was Australian. Here she sits 49 years later.

The very first night I met her, the Honolulu streets were very busy, and I had to think of a way to meet her or at least to talk to her without embarrassing her. So what I did was to find a place where the fence came up to the sidewalk. I went behind the fence and waited for her to walk up and then I said, "Where've you been? I've been waiting for you." I didn't embarrass her too much and it went from there. I was still drinking. After we married I waited seven years before I came back to AA. Those years were like hell. You know I had a belly full of booze and a head full of AA. Of course in that length of time I never forgot how much I liked AA and I did! I kept thinking about going back to meetings but then I thought it was embarrassing. I had tried to help people while I was in and well it just wasn't good. We got married in Honolulu and then after a while it became obvious to her and she didn't like the drinking so after a couple of years she went to Al-Anon. And then she became a real good Al-Anon. It became more and more obvious that I was kind of a bad drinker.

After about 7 years we moved to Reno which we both liked. I was in Reno about a year and she said one day to me, more than once, "I don't know if you can't quit or won't quit but either way I'm not putting up with this." That stopped me in my tracks and in a very short time I stopped because I didn't want to lose her or what we had. We had two children by then so I stopped. My mind was not really in a good place and I had not yet gone back to selling cars yet. I was doing different jobs but they weren't me. Within a couple of years I was back to car sales and that's when things started to get better. I went to AA here in Reno and my first home group was the Every Day Group at 8 a.m. I was selling furniture so I would go to the meeting every day and then go to work. I am a believer that if you're going to do it, do it. So I did. I got sober and our finances improved and everything improved. I got a sponsor and I started working the steps. It was easy to get back to doing everything because she had laid it on the line and I wanted to be married to her (Michelle). You know when you are drinking everything does not go well in the family. It affected both of us. Anyway when I stopped our marriage really began all over again. And it was really good and I've been sober ever since.

I became a better father, at least I think I did. My oldest son was about 4. I would take him out to golf and he would caddy. He would ride in the cart with me. One day I had him in the cart with me and he said to me, "You don't drink anymore do you Daddy?" And I said no. He saw the beer in the closet. I told him I had forgotten it was there and I had to take the six pack that was in there and break every bottle that was there. To him it was poison and I couldn't give it to anyone else because I would be giving them poison. So I had to break every bottle so he would know it was gone. Our other son is a Down syndrome boy. He was born one year before I came into AA. He's obviously a happy boy. He's been with us ever since. He was born a year before I got sober and I was there when he I was born. When I talked to Michelle the next morning she said call the doctor. And when I asked if something was wrong she told me to call the doctor. So I called the doctor and he asked me if I knew what Down syndrome was and I said no. I knew what was wrong. It struck me blind. He seemed like he was just like the other baby and the doctor even said that it didn't show until the next morning. The only thing I could think of was what are we going to do? What am I going to say to my wife? We were expecting and got this beautiful baby boy only he

wasn't so beautiful. We got this lovely boy and I didn't know exactly how to take it. I wanted to see what Michelle thought and I went in and that was all I could think of was, what do I say to her? I walked in the room and she said, "Aren't you glad that we have him rather than someone else who might mistreat him?" There it is. I'm not going to say I was all thrilled up but we did everything we could. She put them in different things and found out who it was and who he was beautiful baby, happy. And has been all these years. We never even thought of putting him in a home somewhere. They have some good places but we have him. He's 43 and we are so happy with him. He's in a good place. He goes to school every day he has his own room just like any other kid.

Is 1976, going to meetings at that time there were a lot of meetings to go to. It's not anything like now, and most of the meetings were at night whereas today we go to meetings during the day. There were quite a few differences. For one thing, the people that were coming in were younger. The meetings were smaller. I used to take, because everybody didn't have cars than those days, I used to take people to meetings all the time. I took Mary D. to meetings and at that time she had 17 years. At that time I got to talk to her a lot. She was more of a sponsor to me than anyone, although I didn't say that to her. I talked with her a lot. She would say take your own G-damn inventory. I heard a lot from her more than anybody else. I talk to all the guys like Johnny V. Johnny V. had been in the military. He had been in the Marine Corps as had I and he talked to me a lot. Pete T. was very active then. In those days, when AA was smaller we got to talk to people a lot more. The only real person that came near being a sponsor to me was Mary D. We didn't go through the steps then the way we go through the steps now. But we did go through the steps. I always liked AA and was always happy here. Being able to be around these guys and being able to speak to them created a lot of Fellowship. We used to go practically after every beating go and have coffee. And we would take a lot of people to AA so a lot of people were a lot closer than they are now. We had a lot of people going to meetings but we were closer then. We had the meeting after the meeting and we developed friendships. There were very few cliques back in the day. Today, meetings are much larger and a lot more people are coming to AA. And they're coming in at different ages, some are older and some are young. AA is reaching out much more. There's a lot more emphasis on the steps than when I came in. I think that's a really good thing for the new people coming in. They all have to be reached. And some people won't talk to anyone else. So the fact that we have so many more people means that a lot of people are willing to take sponsors and some aren't. (One change that is not so good) is that the vast majority of the people that are coming in now are also drugs addicted. And I don't think that's a particularly good thing but that's the way it is now. Because they're dually-addicted. When we came in we were addicted to alcohol. But we weren't druggies. In fact we used to sit in the bars and talk about people in their drugs. I don't think it's easy that they have to deal with both. Judges are sentencing people to AA and they're coming in from different doors which is different. When I came in it was because I was an alcoholic. I didn't come in through rehab. Not so many come in just off the street the way I did. I think rehab is necessary. We come in the way we come in. When I came in, I remember I had been in AA in Honolulu and then in Reno. If I had gone through a rehab my family would have been on the streets. What would they have done? It wasn't a choice for me, I just came in. I didn't go to a hospital because it wasn't in the cards. I had to work. I still go to meetings of course. And now Michelle goes with me. We go to at least two or three meetings a week. The benefit of Reno is that we have so many open meetings so Michelle can go with me. We consider our AA meetings to be a spiritual experience. Once again, many of the people who came in when I came in were really agnostic. They didn't really have a higher power. Over time, and you hear it over and over again in meetings, they find a higher power. I think we're doing enough in that way for the newcomer. I would urge people to get a sponsor today because there's so many more people to sponsor. I would want the newcomer to know that people like me; I am in my late eighties and I don't drive anymore so it is difficult for me to take on sponsees, come talk to me. More often than not, I will encourage you. I don't take newcomers because I haven't had a sponsor for a long time and I don't drive so it's hard, but I'm sure as hell they're admitting to answer your question. I will definitely talk over the phone. Some don't ask. I think people, (I have 43 years) and I think that some people they really think that because they are new and don't know anything that we don't want to talk to them but we are and we do. Talk to me, there I am. I will talk to anyone. I will talk to anyone who wants to come to talk with me.

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