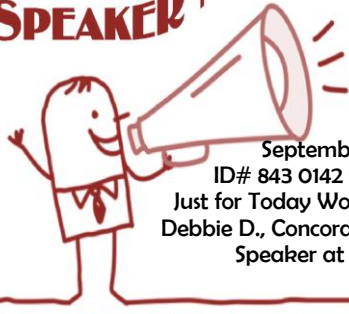


# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



September 12  
ID# 843 0142 9257  
Just for Today Women  
Debbie D., Concord, CA  
Speaker at 7:00

## September, 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



## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

### It's More than an apology

Although saying "I'm Sorry" might be part of the process, making amends is not actually about an apology. In the eighth step, members of twelve-step programs make lists of all those individuals they directly harmed while in active addiction, spending time thinking about those individuals and the wrongs committed against them. When it comes time to make amends for those wrongdoings, the goal is to not just apologize but to restore order by actually righting the wrong. By nature, an apology only expresses guilt and regret, but does little in the way of restitution; in fact, a mere apology could even make matters worse. Instead, making amends is about fixing what has been broken, admitting one's wrongs honestly, making restitution, repaying debts, or suffering the unpaid consequences of actions. There's a degree of responsibility involved in the ninth step as the individual making amends has progressed to a point where he or she recognized the injustices caused to others and *wants* to restore balance. When fulfilling the ninth step, it's been said that the easiest amends to make are those that are financial in nature, such as money that was borrowed without being repaid or valuables that were outright stolen. The most difficult amends to make often involves repairing relationships, especially in cases where trust has been broken and individuals' feelings have been severely hurt. Over the course of the ninth step, it's important to remember that the ultimate goal is to promote healing while restoring balance and order.

Reposted from: Palm Desert Institute /blog/more-than-im-sorry-making-amends-with-the-ninth-step/

AA's

## Recovery Step Nine:

*"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."*

Three

## Unity Tradition Nine:

*"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."*

Legacies

## Service Concept Nine:

*"Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General 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](mailto: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

Limit of 25 Persons in Person

Unlimited on Zoom

ID# 843 0142 9257



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 B. San Diego, CA

Location- Silver Barron room 1-6

November 14, 2020

Host Group- Carson City Brown Baggers

Speaker- June G. Oxnard, CA

Location- Silver Barron room 1-6

December 12, 2020

Host Group- RENVYPAA

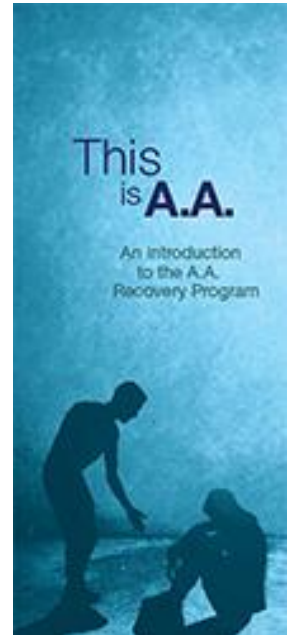
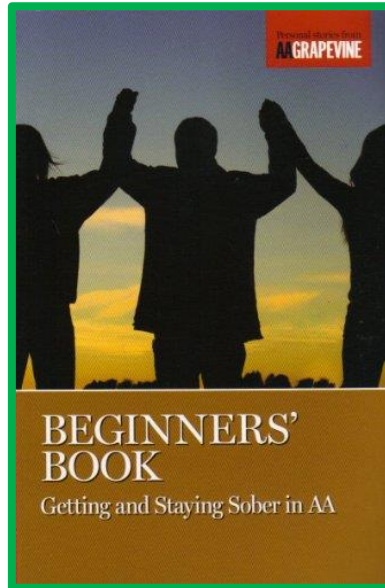
Speaker- Kristin S. Reno, NV

Location- Silver Barron room 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

*BOOK OF  
THE MONTH  
Pick Up Your Copy  
Today \$2.00 off*

*PAMPHLET OF  
THE MONTH  
Pick Up Your Copy  
Today \$0.25*



## MORE AREA EVENTS

**The Driars Club,  
Triangle Club,  
Alano Club and  
Alano Club in Carson City  
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.

## Groups that contributed in August

Alano Sunshine Group, Back Room Group,  
Carson Happy Hour, Carson Sisters in Sobriety,  
Chester Fellowship, Chester Saturday Night  
Group, District 14, District 22,  
Deer Park Rebels, Fernley Groups,  
Fireside Group, Grupo La Nueva Luz,  
Happy Hour/Reno, Minden/Gardnerville Group,  
Mt Rose Recovery Room, Our Big Book Group,  
RTC Beginners are Winners, Afternoon Delight,  
Ladies of the Evening, Ladies of the Lake,  
Southside Group, South Reno on Sunday, South  
Shore Group, Step 1, The Rock Group, Truckee  
River Men's Stag, Truckee Dawn Patrol,  
Willing to go to Any Lengths,  
Whitaker Park Meeting, Young at Heart.  
There was \$856.00 in contributions from  
Individuals in July

*Thank you to all the groups and  
individuals that contribute NNIG and  
Central Office*

Central office report from Ronda H. September 1, 2020

I hope everyone is staying safe and sober! If anyone is looking for service there are many opportunities, West Hills has meetings back and persons are needed to secretary, 12 step call list can always add more persons, the answering service is in need of spots to be filled. There are committee chairs to be filled at NNIG. Events, Corrections, Treatment, CPC, and Sunshine Committees are all open and need to be filled. We have slowly been restocking our non-conference merchandise with new tri plates, gifts, and books at the office, come on in and get that gift for yourself or someone special in recovery. I don't want to sound like a broken record BUT please call the office with any changes to meetings. We are trying our best to keep virtual and in person meeting up to date.

Volunteers hours- 118.75

Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help - 10
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 6
- Meeting information- 86
- Retail / merchandise- 16
- Other 12 step programs- 6
- Events - 1
- New to AA - 3
- Business/Central office- 60
- Total Calls- 185
- Visitors - 189



Ronda  
Central Office Manager

## THE BIRTHDAY CLUB

**August Birthdays!**

**Sandra G.**

**25 Years**

May

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

April

Paul M. 29 years  
Linda S. 15 years  
Ron T. 9 years  
Susanne T. 26 years  
Skip 20 years

March

Kent L. 38 years

December 2019

Scan S. 30 years

November 2019

Leslie S. 22 years  
Cheryl Z. 23 years  
Mike Mc. 34 years

October 2019

Sharron F. 35 years  
Michael H. 24 years

July: Joanne 8 Years, Laurie 9 Years, Barbara 45 Years  
 June: Ann G. 16 Years Dave S. 43 Years Nancy S. 29 Years  
 Deanna S. 36 Years Klye L. 38 Years Paul C. 29 Years  
 John L. 33 Years Donn T. 30 Years Bill Mc. 31 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 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.

September 2019

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

Happy Birthday!

When attending an indoor meeting please be aware of the Covid-19 restrictions from the Governor and the facility where the meeting is held about face masks. Some meeting places have a "Mask Required", if you cannot wear a mask go to a different meeting!

**Saturday Night Fever**  
7:00 PM  
1631 Esmeralda Pl  
Gardnerville, NV

**Serenity on Sunday**  
Sunday  
9:00 AM  
Nugget Casino  
Sparks, 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

**Ground Zero**  
7:00 AM  
Tues and Thursday  
1700 Zolezzi Ln  
Reno, NV

**FALLON LUNCH BUNCH**  
NOON  
TUES AND WED  
141 INDUSTRIAL WAY  
FALLON, NV

**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  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



## 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of even numbered months-For  
 information email [district6@nevadaarea42.org](mailto: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** 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:district20@nevadaarea42.org) for location

**DISTRICT 22** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

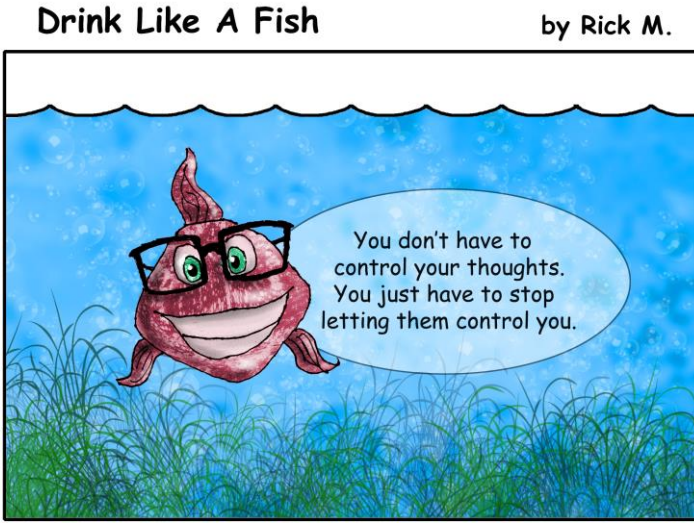
## CALLING ALL LONGTIMERS!!!

**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:**  
[nigarchives@GMAIL.COM](mailto:nigarchives@GMAIL.COM)  
 OR RONDA: 775-335-1151

The office will be closed on the following holidays,

Monday September 7- Labor Day  
 Thursday & Friday November 26 & 27  
 - Thanksgiving & Family Day  
 Thursday & Friday December 24 & 25  
 - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day  
 Wednesday & Thursday December  
 30 & 31 - Inventory  
 Friday January 1 - New Year's Day

**If I drink Alcohol  
 I am Alcoholic  
 but if I drink  
 Fanta  
 does that make me  
 FANTASTIC?**



### NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2020

Group	August	YTD	Group	August	YTD
3rd Tradition Secular Group		50.00	Happy Hour Reno	500.00	142.50
A Vision for You		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	128.51	58.77
Alano Sunday Morning Speaker			Ladies of the Lake	68.36	67.75
Alano Sunshine Group	20.00		Mammoth Good Life Group		50.00
Alano Women in Recovery		17.70	McGill NV Freedom Group		75.00
Amen Maintenance Meeting			Minden Language of the Heart		59.00
Austin Group			Minden Saturday Night Fever		300.00
Back Room Group	68.63		Minden Stephanie Way Group		320.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night		172.60	Minden/Gardnerville Group	123.71	158.32
Blairsden Graeagle Sister in Recovery			Minden Wednesday Night Live		
Battle Mountain Fellowship		15.00	Mt Rose Recovery Room	20.00	1031.30
Blue Canyon Airport group			NNIG Business Meeting		71.50
Caring & Sharing in Stead		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	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	20.00	40.00
Carson Early Birds		951.64	RTC Almost Heaven		125.00
Carson Happy Hour	450.00	1150.00	RTC Beginners are Winners	30.00	450.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's			RTC Aloha Group		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		75.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety	150.00	50.00	RTC Little Rascals		100.00
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station		66.40	RTC Big Book Study		
Carson Sunday Night Step Study		300.00	RTC Men's Trudgers		
Carson Valley Gratitude			RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting		
Chester Saturday Night Group	82.88	75.40	RTC Grapevine/Big Book		
Chester Fellowship	133.75	67.50	RTC Monday Night Men's		100.00
Choices		100.00	RTC New Awakenings Group		330.04
Cornerstone Group			RTC Mid-Day Group		
Dayton Fellowship Hall		200.00	RTC Seniors in Sobriety		50.00
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62			RTC Sober N Sane		
Dayton Sunday Morning		46.25	RENVPA		445.60
District 2		332.10	Sisters in Sobriety		
District 12			Silver Springs Groups		40.00
District 14	550.00	400.00	Sisters of Sobriety		122.17
District 22	50.00	349.00	Sober Readers		
District 6			Sierra City		
Deer Park Rebels	211.00	1790.75	South Shore Group	60.00	60.00
Driars 4th Dimension		175.00	Southside Group	15.00	1007.80
Driar's Positive Step		180.00	Serenity Sisters Big Book		111.10
Driar's Support Hose			South Reno on Sunday	50.00	178.77
Fallon Grapevine Group		145.00	Step 1	81.50	50.00
Eye Operner		63.00	Susanville Fellowship		100.00
Fallon Sunlight of the Spirit		200.00	Susanville Wed Womens		
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch			Sunnyside Group		564.59
Fernley Groups	100.00		Susanville Thursday Night		
Fireside Group	20.00	120.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		20.00
Galena Friday Night		308.00	The Rock Group	195.50	104.50
Ground Zero		392.50	Truckee River Men's Stag	500.00	2266.00
Grupo Accion		60.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol	200.00	160.00
Grupo Fe Y Esoeranza			Truckee Fellowship		
Grupo La Nueva Luz	10.00	40.00	The Twilight Zone		105.00
Grupo Latino		20.00	Verdi Bookies		
Grupo Nueva Vida			Virginia City Plug in the Jug		
Grupo Solo Por Hoy		20.00	Westwood AA		75.00
			Willing to go to any Lengths	357.93	362.67
			Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		375.00
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		30.00
			Whitaker Park	105.81	92.00
			Women's 24 Hours A Day		108.81
			Women's New Beginnings		184.00
			Women's New Harmony		150.00
			Women Down and Dirty		
			Yerington Group	146.40	
			Young at Heart	71.00	
			<b>Total</b>	<b>4,544.98</b>	<b>21,149.75</b>

**My name is Ronda and I am an alcoholic.** I am the Central Office Manager for Northern Nevada Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous. We are doing this interview to document what went on at the office during the Covid-19 (of 2020) pandemic with the meetings and with the office. I have a list of questions in front of me and I'm going to try to answer them the best I can.

**When did the Central Office start learning about meetings closing down?**

I would have to say that was right after our St Patty's Day event which was March 18<sup>th</sup>, I believe. The first meeting that said they had to close down was the Southside meeting. They actually came in and said that they were going to have to close down. They are a rather large meeting right now before Covid. Then after that we started getting phone calls here and there and then of course the governor had us close down. At that point it was basically the Triangle had to close down and then it just fell like dominoes where every single meeting just closed. And that's just how it was.

Right away the Fellowship started putting up Zoom meetings and we were able to put them up on the NNIG website which was really good. Actually, everything closed down but the Alano in Sparks was a little bit rebellious and they tried to stay open for as long as they could. They did stay open for about a week or a week and a half and meetings were still open there. I did go to meetings there because there were no meetings anywhere. A lot of people were full of fear at that time. I had been taught that we needed meetings to stay sober and all of a sudden we didn't have any meetings anymore, so I was trying to keep that going for myself and my own sobriety as much as possible. Of course when people would call, I would tell them that the Alano was still open. There was quite a bit of transition from going to in-person meetings to Zoom meetings but it was done because we alcoholics will do what we need to do to stay sober just like we did what we needed to do to drink.

**How did the central office begin the process of virtual meetings?** It really was The Fellowship. The very first meeting that came online actually might have been the Truckee River Men's Stag meeting. They started it and opened up a meeting every night at 7:00. It was a little bit unclear if it was men's only or if it was going to be open but apparently it was men's only but not too long after, that day or maybe a day or so later, other meetings started saying, "Here can you put this on the website," and that's what we started to do. It was quite a scramble to let the fellowship know that, "Yes all the meetings have stopped, but we now have virtual meetings." Our phones were very busy at the office at that point for current members and also for future members that were calling about getting their papers signed and wondering what to do. We really had no answers for them. We told them they needed to talk to whoever their judge or their attorney or whoever needed them to go to meetings.

Along with online meetings the other problem that came up was anonymity. So there were a lot of people who wouldn't go to zoom meetings because of that. At that time, as far as I know, with the meetings that have been on Zoom there were a lot of breaks with people. There were a lot of Zoom bombings with a lot of things that were meant to be insulting or vulgar that were put on the Zoom meetings. That was upsetting to a lot of people and that was something that had to get worked out which I think it has for the most part now. Another thing that came about with the online meetings and because of the zoom bombing was that people didn't want their meeting on the website anymore, which I personally took, but it wasn't personal to me. At that point the only way that we had for a newcomer to go to a meeting was to go to a zoom meeting so I wanted to make sure that there were as many Zoom meetings as possible for the newcomer to go to and with some meetings being taken off it was a little hurtful. I had to work out my own personal feelings on that about accepting that every group is autonomous and that they can do whatever they need to do. So I did work that out which was good and we had a string of meetings for newcomers and old-timers and in-between'ers.

**Did the General Service Office provide information?** We did get a little bit of information from the General Service Office. The General Service Office was hit hard because at that time New York was worse than any part of the country. So they were working from home and they were trying to scramble to get their own office in order. We did eventually start getting a few updates from them which at that point we kind of basically had figured it out for ourselves. That's not being sarcastic it's just being, "that's just how it was." It's basically "here's the problem let's figure it out" and the fellowship did well in the Reno-Sparks Carson, the whole area did really good with that.

**How did Covid-19 effect the Central Office?** We kept the office running just as normally as we could. On that standpoint I made sure there were always

books available. It did come up whether to close the office or not and it came down to that the office needed to be open because the newcomer and even someone who was already in the fellowship might have a problem and needed a place to go or to get a book or to get a cup of coffee. We've never been at the point in the office where we have had to close the door because there were too many people in the office or not. We have always been open, the phones have always been answered, the door has always been open during business hours for someone to come in and people did come in. People did come in especially in the beginning because it was pretty scary for everybody.

Another way that the office has been affected is somewhat financially. Because the Fellowship is so giving and it's really so loving, they wanted to make sure that the office was open we have had individual contributions and they have made up for the lack of group contributions. I know that groups were sitting on money and they decided to give it to the office. We've never been really worried about the financial aspect of it and maybe that's from the 9th Step Promises. I've seen that from my own personal life and that's the way it's supposed to be.

Oh and elections! We just had elections. We had to postpone them. Actually, in our bylaws it says that we are supposed to do elections in June. We did not do them in June, we did them in July this year because of Covid-19. Just like everything else we need to try to have some kind of normalcy to anything we do in life with some adjustments and we didn't do it. It was a hybrid meeting. There were about 10 of us that went to the Alano Club and I believe 23 were online. Because of rotation and two-year limit we did lose quite a few people for committees and on the steering committee but we were able to get a steering committee quorum going for that. We got someone to step up for Treasurer afterwards. Most of the committee members for the different commitments (like Events) we don't have a chair for Events, but we have no events going on so it's okay. We did have someone step up to be Corrections but they're not a whole lot of Corrections going on. The Institutions, the Rehab Center Chair had to step down but he's willing to fill any commitments needed, to make sure those are taken care of, which he did when someone called about the West Hills meetings. So just like everything, it'll be worked out. I totally believe that. I trust that because it always has. It was definitely different (the election) but it was held and it went on and we are now moving forward one day at a time.

**Will virtual meetings continue?** I think they will. There have always been online meetings and some of them will continue. There are some people who, for one reason or another, cannot make it to regular meetings so they will continue. I don't know about in this actual area.

**What are your thoughts about Reno- Sparks AA having met the needs of the newcomer during this is?** The Fellowship has been awesome during this. Once this happened and the in-person meetings stopped going on, we switched to a different strategy here at the office. If somebody called and they were a newcomer but they weren't necessarily asking for help or they were asking for meetings and we found out that they were a newcomer, we would ask them how they would feel about somebody calling them from the Fellowship. All of them said they would love it so we switched from just giving them meeting information and how meetings worked to actually having a connection with another member and that way they could have phone numbers. That's something we might still continue to do even now that meetings are opening up. We're still doing that so that way they have the connection.

This has changed so much and I think in the beginning we thought it wouldn't last that long but this is turning out to be affecting the whole year probably. All the events have been cancelled. That's for everything, not specifically for NNIG. So it'll be interesting to see how this turns out. I do think a lot of meetings will close and not reopen. I think we'll lose a lot of meetings but I think we might gain new meetings. Who's to say what's going to happen. We'll wait and see what happens.

**Is there anything you as Central Office Manager and a member of AA think Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole could have done differently during this pandemic?** I don't think so. I think we did the best we could with what we had. As things continue to change, we continue to learn and do new things. I think the most important thing for here in the office is that we stuck with the Traditions. Whenever there were questions about this or that we stuck with the Traditions. We stuck with AA. The office to me and to the volunteers who are here every day is that is that we have a primary purpose and that is our primary purpose and we are not here to be a business. We are here to be Alcoholics Anonymous. I think it will be really interesting to see what happens. Thanks.

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