

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



January 9, 2021
 Marcus A. NNIG Host
 Sacramento, CA
 Speaker at 7:00
 Zoom Meeting ID# 843 0142 9257

January, 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Concept I	2
Events	3
Book of the Month	3
Showcase Meetings and more	4
Service Opportunities	5
Group Contributions	6
Step 1 – The most often misquoted Step	7

GENERAL WARRANTIES OF THE NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

In all its proceedings, the Intergroup Association observes the spirit of AA Traditions, taking great care that the Intergroup Association never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus a reserve be its prudent financial principal; that none of the Intergroup Association members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decision be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that no Intergroup Association action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Intergroup Association may act for the service of AA Groups in the Northern Nevada area and parts of 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) 355-1506

EMAIL: officemanager@nnig.org

Web Site/Meeting Schedule: nnig.org

The Bracer: nnigbracer@gmail.com

The Bracer



NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."

Our whole A.A. program is securely founded on the principle of humility--that is to say, perspective. Which implies, among other things, that we relate ourselves rightly to God and to our fellows; that we each see ourselves as we really are--"a small part of a great whole." Seeing our fellows thus, we shall enjoy group harmony. That is why A.A. Tradition can confidently state, "Our common welfare comes first."

"Does this mean," some will ask, "that in A.A. the individual doesn't count too much? Is he to be swallowed up, dominated by the group?"

No, it doesn't seem to work out that way. Perhaps there is no society on earth more solicitous of personal welfare, more careful to grant the individual the greatest possible liberty of belief and action. Alcoholics Anonymous has no "musts." Few A.A. groups impose penalties on anyone for non-conformity. We do suggest, but we don't discipline. Instead, compliance or non-compliance with any principle of A.A. is a matter for the conscience of the individual; he is the judge of his own conduct. Those words of old time, "Judge not," we observe most literally.

"But," some will argue, "if A.A. has no authority to govern its individual members or groups, how shall it ever be sure that the common welfare does come first? How is it possible to be governed without a government? If everyone can do as he pleases, how can you have aught but anarchy?"

The answer seems to be that we A.A.s cannot really do as we please, though there is no constituted human authority to restrain us. Actually, our common welfare is protected by powerful safeguards. The moment any action seriously threatens the common welfare, group opinion mobilizes to remind us; our conscience begins to complain. If one persists, he may become so disturbed as to get drunk; alcohol gives him a beating. Group opinion shows him that he is off the beam, his own conscience tells him that he is dead wrong, and, if he goes too far, Barleycorn brings him real conviction.

So it is we learn that in matters deeply affecting the group as a whole, "our common welfare comes first." Rebellion ceases and cooperation begins because it must; we have disciplined ourselves.

Eventually, of course, we cooperate because we really wish to; we see that without substantial unity there can be no A.A., and that without A.A. there can be little lasting recovery for anyone. We gladly set aside personal ambitions whenever these might harm A.A. We humbly confess that we are but "a small part of a great whole."

(All of the editorials by Bill covering the 12 Points of Tradition appear in the new 48-page Tradition pamphlet, along with the 12 Points themselves. Copies of the new pamphlet were distributed free during November by the Alcoholic Foundation through the group secretaries. Extra copies may be had at 10 cents each by addressing requests to: Alcoholic Foundation, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Annex, New York 17, N. Y.)

The Twelve Concepts for World Service How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together.

The Twelve Concepts for World Service How Bill W. explained the spiritual principles that undergird A.A.'s structure and how the parts work together. This is a pamphlet about the Concepts; it is NOT the Concepts themselves. They are found in the book The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service, and should be read by every "trusted servant." As A.A. grew up, it began with the groups — first only a few, then hundreds and then thousands. Very early an Alcoholic Foundation, later renamed The General Service Board, was formed to be responsible for our affairs. And with Dr. Bob's death and Bill's facing up to his own mortality, a General Service Conference assumed the leadership which had fallen to the co-founders. Meanwhile, a tiny publishing operation and service office had grown in size and importance to the Fellowship, and a monthly journal, the AA Grapevine, was being published. Which of these entities was supposed to do what? Little wonder there was confusion! What was their relationship? Who was in charge? What were their responsibilities — and what were their rights? Bill W. himself was sometimes part of the pulling and hauling that took place, and so he saw the need to "reduce to writing" his concepts of the "why" of the whole structure, the lessons to be drawn from experience, the relationships and, above all, the spiritual principles. As Bill set them down, the Twelve Concepts are a potpourri: Concepts III through V, IX and XII deal with spiritual principles; the remainder, though they have spiritual overtones, are devoted to describing the relationship of the various service entities and how they work together. What follows in this pamphlet is an illustrated introduction to the Twelve Concepts. If it is answers or guidance you are seeking, go to the Concepts themselves. Throughout this pamphlet, wording from the Twelve Concepts themselves (subject to some editing for clarity) is indicated by quotation marks; the rest of the text is either descriptive or explanatory.

Concept I Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside-down organization because the "ultimate responsibility and final authority for . . . world services" resides with the groups — rather than with the trustees of the General Service Board or the General Service Office in New York. In Concept I, Bill traces how this came to be. The first step in 1938 was "the creation of a trusteeship," first called the Alcoholic Foundation, renamed in 1954 the General Service Board. Why? To perform the services the groups could not do for themselves: e.g., uniform literature, uniform public information about A.A., helping new groups get started, sharing with them the experience of established groups, handling pleas for help, publishing a national magazine, and carrying the message in other languages and in other countries. A service office was formed to carry on these functions under the board's direction. Both the board and the office looked to the co-founders, Bill and Dr. Bob, for policy leadership. In the midst of the "exuberant success" of early A.A., Dr. Bob became fatally ill and Bill asked, "When Dr. Bob and I are gone, who would then advise the trustees and the office?" The answer, Bill felt, was to be found in the collective conscience of the A.A. groups. But how could the autonomous, widely scattered groups exercise such a responsibility?

Over great resistance by trustees and members devoted to the status quo, Bill managed to "sell" the idea of calling an A.A. General Service Conference (see Concept II), and eleven years later Bill was able to declare, "The results of the Conference have exceeded our highest expectations." This Concept is rooted in Tradition Two, which states: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." The principles of Tradition Two are crystal-clear, Bill asserts: "The A.A. groups are to be the final authority; their leaders are to be entrusted with delegated responsibilities only." The outside world cannot imagine an organization run this way, but Bill calls it "a spiritualized society characterized by enough enlightenment, enough responsibility, and enough love of man and of God to insure that our democracy of world service will work . . ."

"Reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc."

A A's

**Recovery
Step One:**

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives have become unmanageable"

Three

**Unity
Tradition One:**

"Our common welfare should come first: personal recovery depends on A.A. unity"

Legacies

**Service
Concept One:**

"The final responsibility and the ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship"

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.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

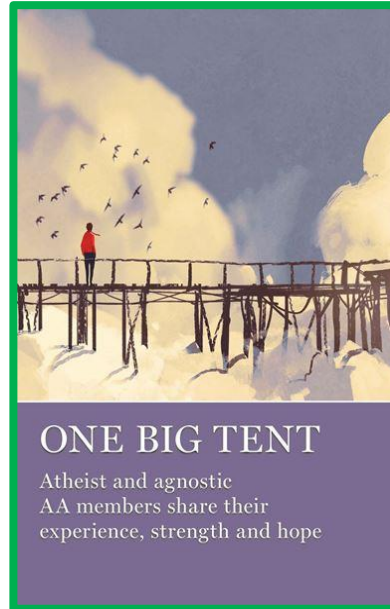
The unity, the effectiveness, and the survival of A.A. will always depend upon our continued willingness to give up some of our personal ambitions and desires for the common safety and welfare. Just as sacrifice means survival for the individual alcoholic, so does sacrifice mean unity and survival for the group and for A.A.'s entire fellowship.

A.A. Comes of Age, PP.287-288

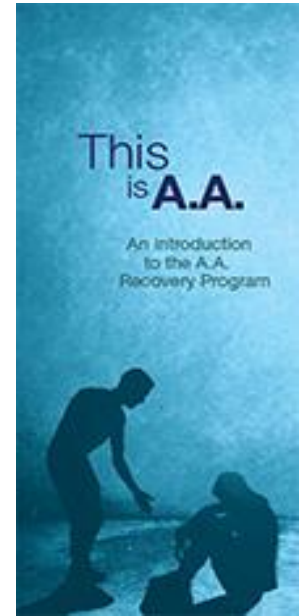
- Vitality Unlimited Treatment Facility in **Carson City** is looking for people on Saturdays 6-7pm, It will be on Zoom
- Always looking for people for 12 Step call List in all of Northern Nevada
- West Hills in Reno needs a lot of people to go into meetings on property
- There are many committee chair positions open with NNIG
 - Corrections Chair
 - Sunshine Chair
 - CPC Chair
 - Events Chair
 - Intergroup Representative to Steering Committee
- If anyone is interested in these Chair positions go to the next NNIG Business meeting Every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM at the Alano Club in Sparks or on Zoom ID# 831 8146 4811

PLEASE CONTACT CENTRAL OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION
775-355-1151

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



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



OTHER 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 FOR 2020 CONTRIBUTIONS

3rd Tradition Secular Group, Vision for You, A Way Home, Alano Jaywalkers, Alano Sunshine Group, Alano Women in Recovery, Amen Maintenance Meeting, Back Room Group, Back to Basics Saturday Night, Battle Mountain Fellowship, Blaisden Graeagle Sister in Recovery, Caring & Sharing in Stead, Carson Big Book Experience, Carson Brown Baggers, Carson Dr. Bob Nightngales, Carson Early Birds, Carson Happy Hour, Carson Men's NO BS Stag, Carson Sandbaggers, Carson Sisters in Sobriety, Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station, Carson Sunday Night Step Study, Crystal Bay Nooners, Chester Fellowship, Chester Saturday Night Group, Choices, Cornerstone Group, Dayton Fellowship Hall ,Dayton Sunday Morning, Deer Park Rebels, District 12, District 14, District 2, District 22, District 6, Driars 4th Dimension, Driars Positive Step, Eye Opener, Fallon Grapevine Group, Fallon Sunlight of the Spirit, Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch, Fernley Groups, Fireside Group, First Responders, Galena Friday Night, Ground Zero, Grupo Accion, Grupo La Nueva Luz, Grupo Latino, Grupo Nueva Vida, Grupo Solo Por Hoy, Happy Hour Reno, Kings Beach AA Golden Group, Ladies of the Evening, Ladies of the Lake, Mammoth Good Life Group, McGill NV Freedom Group, Minden Language of the Heart, Minden Saturday Night Fever, Minden Stephanie Way Group, Minden/Gardnerville Group, Mt Rose Recovery Room, NNIG Business Meeting, Our Common Welfare, Our Group Big Book, Out and Sober, Portola Group, Positive Acceptance Group, Pyramid Way Discussion Group RENVPA, RTC Afternoon Delight, RTC Almost Heaven, RTC Aloha Group, RTC Beginners are Winners, RTC Big Book Study, RTC Coffee with Bill, RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting, RTC Grapevine/Big Book, RTC How We Stay Stopped, RTC Just for Today Women, RTC Little Rascals, RTC Recien Llegados, RTC Mid-Day Group, RTC Monday Night Men's, RTC New Awakenings Group, RTC Seniors in Sobriety, RTC Sober N Sane, Serenity Sisters Big Book, Sierraville Group, Silver Springs Groups, Sisters in Sobriety, Sisters of Sobriety SOS, South Reno on Sunday, South Shore Group, Southside Group, Step 1 ,Sunyside Group, Susanville Fellowship, Tahoe City Fellowship, The Rock Group, The Twilight Zone, Truckee Dawn Patrol , Truckee Fellowship, Truckee River Men's Stag, Virginia City Plug in the Jug, Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting, Westwood AA, Whitaker Park, Whole in the Ground, Sunyside, Willing to go to any Lengths, Winnemucca Serenity Seekers, Women's 24 Hours A Day, Women's New Beginnings, Women's New Harmony, Yerington Group, Young at Heart

Thank you for supporting NNIG

Central office report from Ronda H. January 5, 2021

Thank you to everyone for helping with the office getting through 2020. All the group and individual contributions, the answering service committee, the volunteers and staff at the office. The last and current Steering committee and all the group representatives. This is a "we" program and "we" would not be here in 2021 without "we".
 "The Unity of A.A. is the most cherished quality our Society has. Our lives, the lives of all to come, depend squarely upon it. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat; our world arteries would no longer carry the life-giving grace of God." Twelve and Twelve p. 133


Volunteers hours- 77hrs

Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help - 8
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 5
- Meeting information- 42
- Retail / merchandise- 23
- Other 12 step programs- 4
- Events - 0
- New to AA - 4
- Business/Central office- 42
- Total Calls- 177
- Visitors - 139

Ronda
Central Office Manager





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Cindy M. 32 Years
Anonymous 33 Years

November Birthdays

Rich 34 Years
Leslie 23 Years

Previous Birthdays

October 2020:
Nancy 35 Years, Pete F. 27 Years
Sharon F. 36 Years

September 2020:
Linda G. 28 years, Dan S. 19 years
Phil S. 19 years, Michael H. 25 years

August:
Sandra D. 25 years

July 2020:
Joanne 8 Years, Laurie 9 Years,
Barbara 45 Years


June 2020:
Ann G. 16 Years, Dave S. 43 Years
Nancy S. 29 Years, Deanna S. 36 Years
Kyle L. 38 Years, Paul C. 29 Years
John L. 33 Years, Donn T. 30 Years
Bill Mc. 31 Years

May 2020:
John L. 33 Years, Donn T. 30 Years
Bill Mc. 31 Years


April 2020:
Paul M. 29 years, Linda S. 15 years
Ron T. 9 years, Susanne T. 26 years
Skip 20 years

March 2020:
Kent L. 38 years, Kim D. 43 years

How do these people get birthdays?



One Day at a time



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

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!

A Way Home
5:30 Tues & Fri
501 California Ave
Reno

Wednesday
Night Live
7PM
1375 Centerville Ln.
Methodist Church
Gardnerville/Minden

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

Susanville
Thurs 7:00PM
Episcopal Church
1155 North Street.
Susanville, CA

FERNLEY FREE
TUES 6:30PM
100 N. STREET
FERNLEY

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



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

The office will be closed on the following holidays

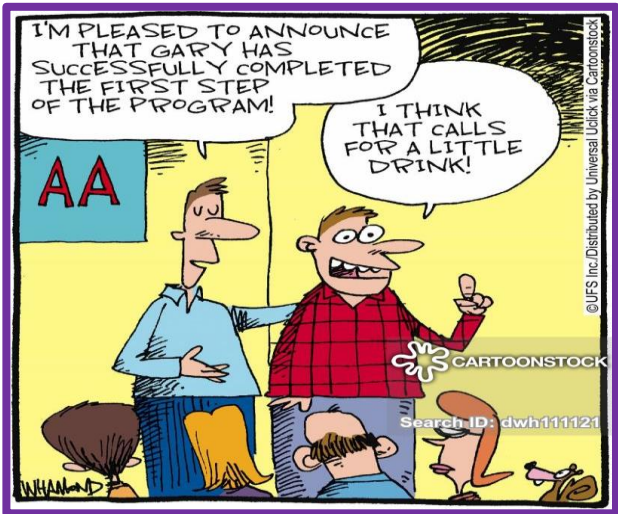
January 18- Martin Luther King Jr Day
 February 15- Presidents Day
 May 31 - Memorial Day
 Saturday June 19th - Founders Day
 Monday July 4- Independence Day
 Monday September 6 - Labor Day
 Friday October 29 - Nevada Day
 Thursday November 11 - Veterans Day
 November 25 & 26 - Thanksgiving
 December 24th & 25th - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

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
OR RONDA: 775-335-1151

Drink Like A Fish

by Rick M.



NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2020

Group	November	YTD	Group	November	YTD
3rd Tradition Secular Group		50.00	Happy Hour Reno		642.50
A Vision for You		103.00	Incline to be Sober		
A Way Home		303.50	Incline Village Fellowship		
Alano Afternoon Serenity			Jamesville Moment to Moment		
Alano Brown Baggers			Kings Beach AA Golden Group		478.00
Alano Dawn Patrol			Ladies of the Evening		216.78
Alano Jaywalkers		48.60	Ladies of the Lake	61.83	197.94
Alano Sunday Morning Speaker			Mammoth Good Life Group		50.00
Alano Sunshine Group		20.00	McGill NV Freedom Group		75.00
Alano Women in Recovery		21.50	Minden Language of the Heart		59.00
Amen Maintenance Meeting		100.00	Minden Saturday Night Fever	300.00	600.00
Back Room Group		254.33	Minden Stephanie Way Group		520.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night		172.60	Minden Wednesday Night Live		
Battle Mountain Fellowship		15.00	Minden/Gardnerville Group		393.04
Blairsdan Graeagle Sister in Recovery		60.00	Mt Rose Recovery Room	669.00	2108.80
Caring & Sharing in Stead		252.89	NNIG Business Meeting		79.50
Carlin Crystal Light Group			Our Common Welfare		84.15
Carson AA Way of Life			Our Group Big Book		56.00
Carson After Shifters			Out and Sober		37.00
Carson Airport			Portola Group		200.00
Carson Big Book Experience	50.00	50.00	Positive Acceptance Group		381.53
Carson Brown Baggers		986.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group	45.00	97.50
Carson Dr. Bob Nightngales		218.58	RENVPAA		445.60
Carson Early Birds		951.64	RTC Afternoon Delight		80.00
Carson Happy Hour	60.00	1860.00	RTC Almost Heaven	250.00	575.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's			RTC Aloha Group		48.60
Carson Language of the Heart			RTC Beginners are Winners		611.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		328.41	RTC Big Book Study		50.00
Carson Sandbaggers		510.00	RTC Coffee with Bill		75.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety		200.00	RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting	150.00	150.00
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station		141.40	RTC Grapevine/Big Book		20.00
Carson Sunday Night Step Study		300.00	RTC How We Stay Stopped		140.00
Crystal Bay Nooners	50.00	50.00	RTC Just for Today Women		135.00
Chester Fellowship		201.25	RTC Little Rascals		150.00
Chester Saturday Night Group		158.28	RTC Recien Liegados	11.00	11.00
Choices	200.00	300.00	RTC Mid-Day Group	50.00	50.00
Cornerstone Group		76.25	RTC Monday Night Men's		246.00
Dayton Fellowship Hall		600.00	RTC New Awakenings Group		642.04
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62			RTC Seniors in Sobriety		150.00
Dayton Sunday Morning		46.25	RTC Sober N Sane		30.00
Deer Park Rebels	38.00	2485.25	Serenity Sisters Big Book		111.10
District 12	50.00	50.00	Sierraville Group	42.56	42.56
District 14		1050.00	Silver Springs Groups		90.00
District 2		332.10	Sisters in Sobriety	100.00	100.00
District 22	26.00	552.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		214.17
District 6			Sober Readers		
Driars 4th Dimension	50.00	265.00	South Reno on Sunday		228.77
Driar's Positive Step		180.00	South Shore Group	60.00	180.00
Driar's Support Hose			Southside Group	465.96	1723.76
Eye Opener	950.00	1013.00	Step 1	60.00	231.50
Fallon Grapevine Group		155.00	Sunnyside Group		874.59
Fallon Sunlight of the Spirit		200.00	Susanville Fellowship	60.00	160.00
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch		20.00	Susanville Thursday Night		
Fernley Groups		300.00	Susanville Wed Womens		
Fireside Group	20.00	180.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		20.00
First Responders		25.00	The Rock Group	59.00	359.00
Galena Friday Night		308.00	The Twilight Zone		105.00
Ground Zero	336.29	1228.79	Truckee Dawn Patrol		360.00
Grupo Accion		120.00	Truckee Fellowship	40.00	40.00
Grupo Fe Y Esoeranza			Truckee River Men's Stag	1000.00	4266.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz		80.00	Verdi Bookies		
Grupo Latino		20.00	Virgina City Plug in the Jug		404.50
Grupo Nueva Vida		15.00	Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		65.00
Grupo Solo Por Hoy		20.00	Westwood AA		75.00
			Whitaker Park		369.56
			Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		675.00
			Willing to go to any Lengths		1345.97
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		30.00
			Women's 24 Hours A Day		108.81
			Women's New Beginnings	407.42	591.42
			Women's New Harmony		185.00
			Yerington Group		146.40
			Young at Heart		71.00

Total 5,662.06 40,038.71

STEP ONE –THE MOST OFTEN MISQUOTED STEP OF A.A.'S 12 STEPS!

We sit around in meetings emphasizing the importance of a complete and perfect First Step – and it's Step One – that is one of the most misquoted Steps of the 12 Steps.

The word “and” is NOT in Step One.

I hear it over and over and over again “We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol *AND* our lives had become unmanageable.”

That's NOT Step 1.

Step 1 is “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Contrary to what is popularly quoted – and, I believe its fuel that feeds the resistance and confusion about Step One – **Step 1 is NOT a “two part” Step.**

Step One is an admission of alcoholism. (See page 30 of the Big Book).

It is an acknowledgement that we have become convinced in our inner-most selves that we are alcoholics.

I made the error, also – for many years, thinking that “Step One is a two part Step.” It isn't.

When I read the descriptions of “what an alcoholic is” in the Big Book – I have yet to find any reference that “and an unmanageable life” has anything to do – with whether or not a person is alcoholic or non-alcoholic. It just isn't there.

For me – when I was new in A.A., part of the reason I was confused and could not become convinced that I was alcoholic – was because I was not convinced that “my life was unmanageable” – like I was hearing about it in A.A. meetings.

Therefore, I concluded that “if my life is not unmanageable – then, I must not be an alcoholic.”

So... what did I do? I continued drinking and letting my life get progressively more screwed up, and allowing my alcoholism to progress without treating it – until I could say “my life is unmanageable.”

Had I known the proper description of an alcoholic – and realized that the “and my life had become unmanageable” was not part of the description of an alcoholic – I might have had a better chance of grasping the concept of alcoholism.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

I believe that the reasons that it is important are:

1. It's wrong. And, it's confusing.
2. Using the word “and” is adding a “condition” to alcoholism, that just isn't there.
3. If we are ever to succeed in helping the still suffering alcoholics to “raise their bottom” the easiest way to do that – would be to admit to our error and correct it.
4. We can better understand the meaning of Step One – by looking at it as it was written.

Notice in #4 above – where I used the dash.

To substitute the dash in #4 above, the thought and the sentence – wouldn't make sense. Or you could do it with the sentence preceding this one! Substitute the word “and” for the “dash” and it makes no sense.

Take a look at Step One. Do you see the word “and”? It isn't there.

What we have is a “hyphen” -- a “dash”.

In our English language, when a hyphen is not used to break up a word, it is used to connect a thought or phrase.

Often, we refer to it as a “dash”.

A dash is the mark or sign (—) used to note an abrupt break or pause in a sentence or hesitation in an utterance, to begin and end a parenthetical word, phrase, or clause, to indicate the omission of letters or words, to divide a line, to substitute for certain uses of the colon, and to separate any of various elements of a sentence or series of sentences, as a question from its answer.

From American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition - dash

A punctuation mark (—) used to indicate a sudden break in thought, to set off parenthetical material, or to take the place of such expressions as that is and namely: “He's running for reelection — if he lives until then”; “Very few people in this class — three, to be exact — have completed their projects”; “She joined the chorus for only one reason — she loves to sing.” In the last example, where the parenthetical material comes at the end of the sentence rather than in the middle, a colon could be used instead of the dash.

Step One: “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.”

If I were to paraphrase Step One, as it is written, using the dash as a concluding thought, rather than an “and” -- I could say “I admitted that I am powerless over staying sober -- because I cannot manage to leave alcohol entirely alone.” Or – “We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol – we could not manage to leave alcohol entirely alone.” The insanity of the first drink. The obsession that prevents us from leaving alcohol alone – while we are entirely sober!

This, then means – that “my life had become unmanageable” – regardless if I was drinking or sober – because I cannot manage to leave alcohol entirely alone. We know from the Doctor's Opinion, and from our own experience – that it is not safe for us alcoholics to use alcohol in any form at all.

If it is unsafe for us to use alcohol in any form at all, and we cannot manage to leave alcohol entirely alone – we are powerless over drinking alcohol. Simple. Complete. No argument.

Those thoughts are more in line with our Big Book's description of the alcoholic in Chapter Three More about alcoholism and in Chapter Four, We Agnostics.

For references see pages 30, 24, and 44 of the Big Book - Alcoholics Anonymous .

Dallas B.

(reprinted from <http://www.step12.com/aa-step-1-most-often-misquoted-step.html>)

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