

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



June 12, 2021  
Xochitl N, Santa Monica  
Almost Heaven  
Speaker at 7:00  
Zoom Meeting ID# 843 0142 9257

## June, 2021

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#### GENERAL WARRANTIES OF THE NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

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

#### CENTRAL OFFICE

436 S. Rock Blvd.,  
Sparks, NV 89431  
Monday thru Friday  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

24 Hour Answering Service:

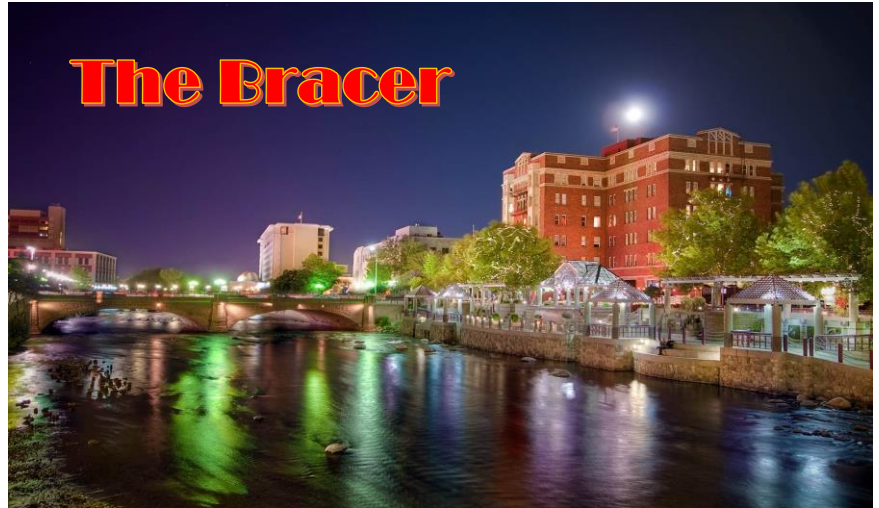
(775) 355-1151 Fax: (775) 355-1560

EMAIL: officemanager@nnig.org

Web Site/Meeting Schedule: nnig.org

The Bracer: nnigbracer@gmail.com

## The Bracer



## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

**George thought this AA thing wasn't for him at first.**

**Luckily, after treatment, Mike took him to his home group**

In thinking about this Tradition, I'm reminded of my friend George. In the fall of '94, I was on our local intergroup call list. Late one evening, I was asked to give George a call, as he might want help. George said that he had tried "AA" before but it had never worked—during several previous stays in treatment, he'd gone to meetings there. It was a great surprise to George when I said that most of those meetings were run by the facilities; they were not AA groups, but a function of the treatment center or hospital. I said I would be glad to meet him and show him the program of recovery that worked for me—as outlined in our book Alcoholics Anonymous—and introduce him to an AA group.

Because of the amount of alcohol George had consumed, I suggested a medically supervised detox. After that, I agreed to meet him at my home group. Unexpectedly I had to leave early, so I arranged for George to be met by a fellow member, Jimmy D.—who became George's sponsor.

Eight years later, when Jimmy D. died, George talked about the wonderful way of life Jimmy had shared with him. George and I often reminisced about how he had given up hope of finding sobriety, and how he thought he had tried AA but had never been introduced to the program of recovery.

"While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied," AA's Sixth Tradition, long form, says. (AA's Third Tradition, long form, adds: "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.")

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## Concept VI

***On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.***

We have seen that the “final responsibility and ultimate authority” for A.A.’s service activities rest with the A.A. groups (Concept I), but to carry out this responsibility they must delegate to the Conference (Concept II). The Conference, in turn, must delegate administrative authority to the General Service Board of Trustees. Again, it is helpful if you are familiar with both the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board to understand this relationship and the freedom of action that the trustees must have. 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 AA 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 other countries around the world. They are A.A.’s “bankers,” overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.’s substantial Reserve Fund. (Read the text of Concept XI for a more detailed account of their functions.)

Bill makes the point that although “our objective is always a spiritual one,” nevertheless our world service is a “large business operation.” “Indeed,” he says, “our whole service structure resembles that of a large corporation. The A.A. groups are the stockholders, the delegates represent them, like proxy-holders, at the annual meeting; the General Service Board Trustees are actually the directors of a ‘holding company.’ And this holding company (the General Service Board) actually owns and controls the two ‘subsidiaries’ (A.A.W.S and AA Grapevine) which carry on the . . . services. “This very real analogy makes it . . . clear that, like any other board of directors, our trustees must be given large powers if they are to manage the . . . affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous.”

**A A'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.*

# 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



**June 12, 2021**

**Host Group - RTC Almost Heaven**  
**Speaker- Xochitl N - Santa Monica, CA**  
**Location- Silver Barron Room 1-6**

**July 10, 2021**

**Host Group- Alano Positive Acceptance Group**  
**Speaker- Bob D - Las Vegas, NV**  
**Location- Silver Barron Room A**

**August 14, 2021**

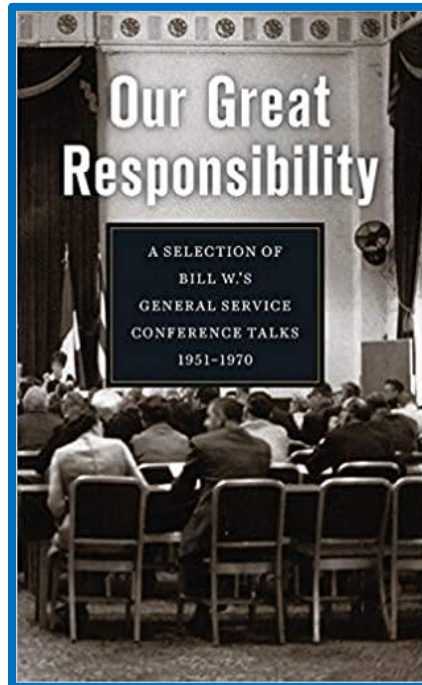
**Host Group- Minden/ Gardnerville Group**  
**Speaker- Alan J - Reno, NV**  
**Location- Silver Barron Room 1-6**

**September 11, 2021**

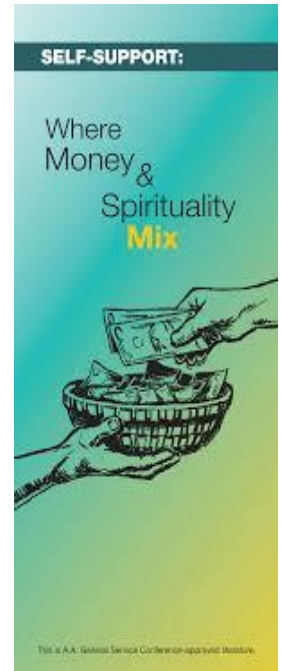
**Host Group- A Way Home**  
**Speaker- Cathi W - Reno, NV**  
**Location- Silver Barron Room 1-6**

NNIG Speaker Chair: Chad S. (916) 295-8486  
Need more info call: Central Office – (775) 355-1151  
Join us for dinner at Cafe Central inside the Silver legacy @ 5pm

**BOOK OF  
THE MONTH \$13  
FREE WITH PURCHASE GET  
REPRINT OF ORIGINAL BIG BOOK**



**PAMPHLET OF  
THE MONTH  
WHERE MONEY & SPIRITUALITY  
MIX FREE**



**FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC 2021**


**Bowers Mansion, Washoe Valley**  
**Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> 11-3pm**



**Kids & Adult Games**  
**Hamburgers & Hot Dogs**  
**Food served between Noon-2pm**  
**Pot Luck- Please bring only sealed store bought items**  
**\$5 Suggested Contribution**

For more information call Central Office  
775-355-1151

**FOUNDER'S DAY PICNIC TIME**



Hosted by District 6  
Sunday, 13 June 2021 – 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Mormon Station State Historic Park**  
2295 Main St, Genoa

**POTLUCK!**  
District Business meeting at 11:30 a.m.  
Potluck starts at Noon  
Guest Speaker: Julie C. (Area 42 Delegate)

*(Existing Covid-19 Regulations will apply)*



**CampNic 2021  
JULY 23-25**  
**HOSTED BY DISTRICT 19**

Enjoy the first ever District 19 CampNic 2021!!!  
Our time at Ward Mountain Campground starts at 11am Friday, July 23 and runs through Sunday, July 25. (Camp spots available on a first come, first served basis throughout the weekend.)  
Fellowship opportunities throughout the weekend include: Friday night pot luck dinner and camp fire meeting with smores; breakfast, snacks, lunch; horseshoe and corn hole games; Saturday Weekend Warrior Speaker Meeting and "Best Smoked Grillin'" (and smores); raffle; sobriety countdown and even more planned for the little's who are also welcome. (See [www.elyaa.org](http://www.elyaa.org) for details.)

\*...we aren't a glum lot... We absolutely insist on enjoying life...we think cheerfulness and laughter make for usefulness.  
Reprinted with permission, Alcoholics Anonymous, page 132.

**WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT!**

- Horseshoes
- Cornhole
- Bubbles
- Face painting
- Rock painting
- and more...

**FOOD!**

- Breakfast
- Pot luck Friday
- BBQ Saturday
- Smores

**Weekend Warriors**  
Saturday Speaker Meeting 7pm

**DISTRICT 19  
CAMPNIC 2021  
WARD MOUNTAIN**  
(775) 235-3540  
[www.elyaa.org](http://www.elyaa.org)

## Central office report from Ronda H. June 1, 2021

The book of the month is still *Our Great Responsibility* with purchase you will receive **FREE** the reprint of the first big book. The reprint contains the stories of the first members that got sober. We have **25** left to sell to meet our goal! We still have masks at the office. the masks are on sale for \$4, **half off!!!**. If anyone has an office chair that they are in no use of anymore please consider contributing it to Central Office. We are in need of 2 office chairs. We are also looking for old unwanted A.A. event t-shirts.

Volunteer Hours: 129

Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help - 2
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 1
- Meeting information- 72
- Retail/merchandise- 18
- Other 12 step programs- 4
- Events - 61
- New to AA - 2
- Business/Central office- 61
- Total Calls- 171
- Visitors - 233

Ronda  
Central Office Manager



## MAY 2020:

### Previous Birthdays

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**  
Kent L. 39 years  
Kimmi 44 YEARS

**February**  
Tom C. -- 40 Years  
Skip P. -- 21 years

**January 2021**  
Joan H. 50 Years

**December 2020**  
Cindy M. 32 Years  
Anonymous 33 Years

**November 2020:**  
Rich H. 34 Years  
Leslie S. 25 Years

**October 2020:**  
Nancy H. 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 2020:**  
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

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

Joni S. 26 Years  
Ron T. 10 Years  
Ann G. 1 LOT  
Donn T. 31 Years

Way to  
Go  
Birthday  
People!!



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

**Please respect all meeting place mandates about face coverings.**

**All Pit Road Meetings are back in-person**

**1276 Pit Rd. Gardnerville/ Minden**

*Carson City  
Alano Club 1800  
Hwy 50 East #5  
All Meetings are Back*

**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

**Commons Beach California**

**400 N. Lake Blvd. 9AM Sat & Sun**

**Bring your own chair!**

**CARING & SHARING**

**MON, WED, FRI 7PM**

**ST MICHAELS 14075 MT VIDA ST. STEAD**

**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** Virtually contact DCM

**DISTRICT 4** First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM-  
 Zoom ID: 876 7717 4234 PW: District4

**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

The office will be closed on the following holidays

Saturday Junz 12<sup>th</sup> - Founders Day  
 Monday July 5- Independence Day  
 Monday September 6 - Labor Day  
 Friday October 29 - Nevada Day  
 Thursday November 11 - Veterans Day  
 November 25 & 26 - Thanksgiving  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day  
 December 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> - Inventory

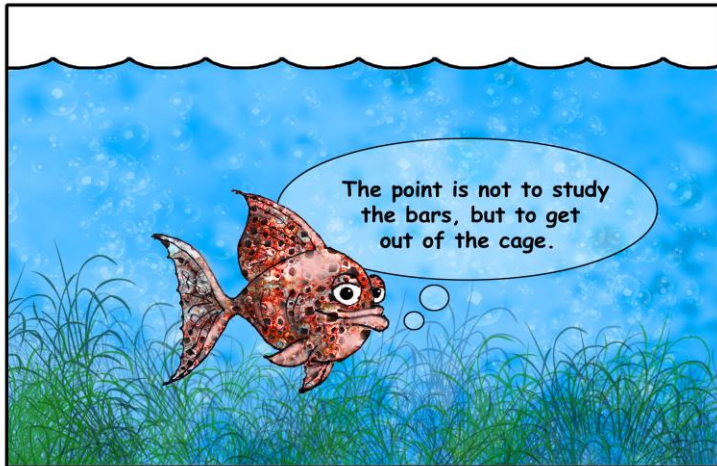
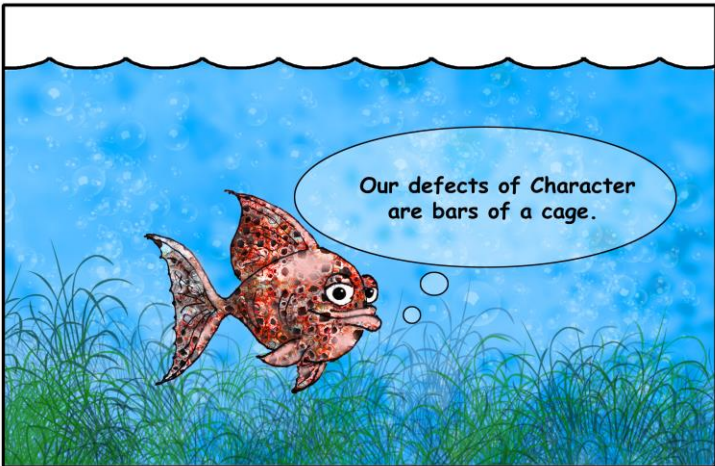
### ELECTIONS JUNE 1, 2021

CHAIRPERSON Mike B.  
 VICE-CHAIR Chad S.  
 SECRETARY Sharon L.  
 TREASURER Rob A.  
 2-INTERGROUP LIASONS 1-Don D. 2- OPEN

NNIG Chairpersons  
 Activities Events – Di H.  
 Answering Service – Kirk S.  
 CPC- Cooperation Professional Community – OPEN  
 PI- Public Information – OPEN  
 Bridging the Gap – Colleen S.  
 Corrections – Lexi E.  
 Treatment – OPEN  
 Monthly Speaker Meeting – Kevin B.  
 Sunshine Committee – OPEN

### Drink Like A Fish

by Rick M.



**NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2021**

<b>Group</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>YTD</b>
3rd Tradition Secular Group			Happy Hour Reno		400.00
A Vision for You			Incline to be Sober		
A Way Home	162.50	302.50	Incline Village Fellowship		
Alano Afternoon Serenity			Jamesville Moment to Moment		
Alano Brown Baggers			Kings Beach AA Golden Group		
Alano Dawn Patrol			Ladies of the Evening		
Alano Jaywalkers		175.53	Ladies of the Lake		127.59
Alano Sunday Morning Speaker			Mammoth Good Life Group		
Alano Sunshine Group			McGill NV Freedom Group		
Alano Women in Recovery			Minden Language of the Heart		40.00
Amen Maintenance Meeting		276.00	Minden Saturday Night Fever		
Back Room Group		175.58	Minden Stephanie Way Group		226.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night			Minden Wednesday Night Live		100.00
Battle Mountain Fellowship			Minden/Gardnerville Group	127.07	127.07
Blairden Graeagle Sister in Recovery			Mt Rose Recovery Room	539.50	1889.57
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		214.50	NNIG Business Meeting	31.00	42.50
Caring & Sharing in Stead		568.97	Our Common Welfare		
Carlin Crystal Light Group			Our Group Big Book		50.00
Carson AA Way of Life			Out and Sober		
Carson After Shifters		250.00	Portola Group		
Carson Airport			Positive Acceptance Group		94.53
Carson Big Book Experience		118.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		60.00
Carson Brown Baggers		962.80	RENVPA		
Carson Dr. Bob Nightngales			RTC Afternoon Delight		150.00
Carson Early Birds	827.50	1976.72	RTC Almost Heaven	150.00	750.00
Carson Happy Hour		1166.56	RTC Aloha Group		1500.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		200.00	RTC Beginners are Winners		
Carson Language of the Heart			RTC Big Book Study		184.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag			RTC Coffee with Bill		81.00
Carson Sandbaggers	100.00	200.00	RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting		151.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Grapevine/Big Book		25.00
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station		200.00	RTC How We Stay Stopped		60.00
Carson Sunday Night Step Study			RTC Just for Today Women		113.25
Carson Women's Night Out		200.00	RTC Mid-Day Group		67.26
Crystal Bay Nooners	50.00	300.00	RTC Little Rascals		97.50
Chester Fellowship		250.00	RTC Recien Liegados		
Chester Saturday Night Group	200.00	200.00	RTC Mid-Day Group ON-LINE	63.63	156.50
Choices	50.00	150.00	RTC Monday Night Men's		
Cornerstone Group			RTC New Awakenings Group		620.11
Dayton Fellowship Hall			RTC Seniors in Sobriety		150.00
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62	400.00	400.00	RTC Sober N Sane		30.00
Dayton Sunday Morning			Serenity Sisters Big Book		
Deer Park Rebels		66.00	Serenity on Sundays		150.00
District 12			Silver Springs Groups		
District 14	50.00	500.00	Sisters in Sobriety		199.40
District 2	200.00	600.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		81.00
District 22	58.00	218.00	Sober Readers		
Driars 4th Dimension- ON-LINE	84.07	84.07	South Reno on Sunday		70.39
Driars 4th Dimension	9.48	41.14	South Shore Group		60.00
Driar's Positive Step			Southside Group		734.18
Driar's Oldtimer, Newcomers		50.00	Step 1		
Eye Operner		301.60	Sunnyside Group		538.60
Fallon Grapevine Group		65.00	Susanville Fellowship		
Fallon Grapevine Group-Online		40.00	Susanville Thursday Night		
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch			Susanville Wed Womens		
Fernley Groups		400.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		
Fireside Group	500.00	540.00	The Rock Group	84.50	84.50
First Responders			The Twilight Zone		50.00
Galena Friday Night		133.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol	100.00	1000.00
Ground Zero		1200.00	Truckee Fellowship		235.80
Grupo Accion	20.00	60.00	Truckee River Men's Stag	400.00	1462.00
Grupo Fe Y Esoeranza		20.00	Verdi Bookies		
Grupo La Nueva Luz	10.00	50.00	Virginia City Plug in the Jug		212.00
Grupo Latino			Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		
Grupo Nueva Vida	20.00	20.00	Westwood AA		
Grupo Solo Por Hoy			Whitaker Park		
Jamesville God Grant Me		141.27	Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		275.00
			Willing to go to any Lengths		630.00
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		
			Women's 24 Hours A Day		
			Women's New Beginnings		
			Women's New Harmony		155.00
			Yerington Group		
			Young at Heart		
<b>Total</b>				<b>4,237.25</b>	<b>25,847.99</b>

## I DON'T WORK HERE

While taking meetings into a hospital detox, a member finds it's important to say that he's just another drunk

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

I was a little over a year sober when I began answering phones with my sponsor at our local intergroup. During one shift, he overheard a conversation in which I waxed poetic about the virtues of AA and then tried to help the caller with other problems. After the call, he calmly asked, "Have you ever read the Traditions in the 'Twelve and Twelve'?" My only exposure to the Traditions had been grumbling attendance at a few Traditions meetings. "No," I answered.

"Well, if you are going to do more service," he said, "you might want to read about them. They're kind of...important."

Although I was insulted and defensive—my first reaction to many of his suggestions—I realized that he had about 20 more years of experience than me, so I'd better take the suggestion.

I'm so glad I did. I loved reading about the trials, errors and misadventures that the early AAs had while developing the Traditions that guide our Fellowship today. I realized that early AAs were just as fallible, and occasionally as misguided, as anyone else. But by returning to a primary purpose, obstacles could be overcome, and the Fellowship would survive.

As I've continued to do service at the group level and beyond, I've witnessed how our Traditions help the Fellowship navigate through all sorts of situations. It's not always pretty either, so I really started to appreciate the wisdom that came from the experience of those in the early days.

One Tradition that I've grown grateful for is the Sixth Tradition. At first, it took me a while to see how a Tradition that deals with specific issues—money, endorsement, lending out the AA name—could apply to my own recovery. But the more service I've done over the years, the more I've come to realize how this Tradition really helps our Fellowship to keep it simple.

For a number of years, I took an AA meeting into a detox every other Friday night. The detox is part of a hospital and is run, like many hospital detoxes, by a trained professional staff.

Early on in my commitment, a patient showed up after the meeting started. She apologized profusely and began telling me why she was late. I realized that because I was leading the meeting, some detox patients might assume that I work for the hospital.

I told her that I appreciated the apology, but it wasn't necessary. From that point on, I made sure I explained at the beginning of each meeting that I was neither a member of the hospital staff, nor a professional in the field of alcoholism treatment. I told them that I was simply a drunk just like them, who found a solution in Alcoholics Anonymous. The speaker and I were there to share our experience in the hopes that it might help another alcoholic—we wanted to give back what had been so freely given to us. We had nothing to do with the hospital, we weren't there to enforce any rules, make money or sell anything. I found it helpful to make this clear from the beginning, both for the patients and for myself. It helped define the meeting's primary purpose, and it also, perhaps, made it easier for the patients in the detox to see me as a peer, not as a counselor or a doctor.

In my own recovery, Tradition Six reminds me not to overstep my bounds. As my sponsor witnessed that day at intergroup, there are times I get excited and try to fix things I have no business fixing. Whether I'm answering phones, talking to a newcomer at a meeting or working with a sponsee, my only purpose is to share my experience, strength and hope, and to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. There are plenty of competent professionals more qualified than me, who can handle everything else.

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## Wrinkles in My Ego

STEP SIX says, "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character." How to be entirely ready has been quite a puzzler for me. I have to keep in mind that the Step does not say, "I tinkered with my personality till I became perfect." First of all, I am not sure what perfect is; and second, when it comes to ironing out the wrinkles in my ego, I am about as clever as a gorilla repairing a wristwatch.

The first thing I have to keep in mind is that *God* does the removing, as well as deciding what is to be removed. So many of my difficulties were caused by the misapplication of God-given virtues that if I tried to sort them out, I would

very likely throw out much of the wheat with the chaff.

But, after twenty years of trying to become entirely ready for God to do His work, I can honestly say it sure is worth the effort.

At one time or another, many of us feel insecure, inadequate, and uncertain. Somehow, we just aren't very enthusiastic about the present. As of today, I am quite sure what *not* to do for this state of affairs. I used to resort to a form of liquid courage that seemed to be just what I needed.

For me today, the process of becoming ready to have God remove these defects of character starts with being where it is happening--at meetings! If we ask for God's guidance and go about our business *as though* we were going to get it--we will. I also believe that we should be active in seeking God's help and passive in accepting His guidance.

Perhaps, one of the next things to remember is that, since I have been mixed-up for several decades, it would not be realistic for me to expect to come up smelling like Albert Schweitzer overnight. "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceeding small." I have to tell myself: Stay sober and wait.

It is very difficult to steer a parked car and make much progress toward any destination. I try to get moving by using what I have. When I first came to AA, I was so far gone, I couldn't remember a phone number long enough to dial it, so I had to write it down. I was not stable enough to hold a good job, so I took a mediocre job. In fact, I had five jobs after I sobered up, and each paid less than the previous one. You might say I had a very promising future behind me. The sixth job finally paid off, and I got back to my trade. I had to use what I had. In short, I had to be going somewhere before I could be guided.

These are some of the things I have learned along the way from the people in AA. I have also seen people who have grasped the program hang on in spite of tremendous odds, such as slow death by cancer or sudden loss of loved ones by accident. Whatever the character defects of these people might have been, drinking was not among them. They stuck to the program.

God as I understand Him does not cheat anyone. I don't pretend to know how, when, or where the score is evened up, but I am certain that it always is.

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