

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



September 11, 2021  
Cathi W., Reno, NV  
A Way Home Group  
Speaker at 7:00  
Silver Barron Room A

## September, 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



## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

### TRADITION NINE

#### A SENSE OF SERVICE

Generally, when we hear the word organization, we think of a situation where there are a lot of rules, and someone with a certain amount of power governs or is in control. Out of curiosity, I decided to look in the dictionary for a definition of the word "organize," and I found that to organize means to systematically prepare or arrange for effective operation. Isn't this what has been done in AA? We have service boards and committees of varying natures that we elect or appoint and who assume responsibility without trying to take on authority, people who, because of a true sense of spiritual simplicity and service to others, effectively carry out the duties of whatever job they are asked to perform. But this sense of service doesn't only apply at the level of boards or committees. Look at the group and the people who regularly get there early and set up the meeting area, the people who make the coffee, clean up the ashtrays, sweep the floor, and carry out the other tasks just because they know they have to be done. These are only a few examples, but the same principles apply in all of AA, be it at the level of group, intergroup, or general service. As long as we have members who continue to have the best interests of AA at heart and enjoy doing the things that need to be done without any notion of power or prestige, Tradition Nine won't be any problem.

PINKY H. | LONDON, ONTARIO

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## Concept IX

*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.*

“No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure . . . Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures.” Due to A.A.’s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort. The base of the service structure — and the source of our leadership — is the General Service Representative. The G.S.R. is the service leader for his or her group, the indispensable link between the group and A.A. as-a-whole. Together the G.S.R.s are A.A.’s group conscience — and together, in their areas, they elect the area committee members and ultimately the delegates and the area’s candidates for trustee. Groups who have not named G.S.R.s should be encouraged to do so. And as the G.S.R.s meet in area assemblies, care and dedication are required. Personal ambitions should be cast aside; feuds and controversies forgotten. “Who are the best qualified people?” should be the thought of all. “No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception. Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of real leadership — the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us. “A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him and help him with his job. “Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

“Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility. “Another qualification for leadership is ‘give and take,’ the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction . . . We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one’s convictions about an issue until it is settled. “Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example. We say to them, ‘Act for us, but do not boss us.’”

A A'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.”*

# 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



All meetings located in Silver Barron Room 1-6 Unless otherwise noted

**September 11, 2021**  
**Host Group- A Way Home**  
**Speaker- Cathi W - Reno, NV**

**October 9, 2021**  
**Host Group – Carson City Sandbaggers**  
**Speaker – Linda M- Dixon CA**

**December 11, 2021**  
**Host Group – District 2**  
**Speaker - Luther B. San Jose, CA**

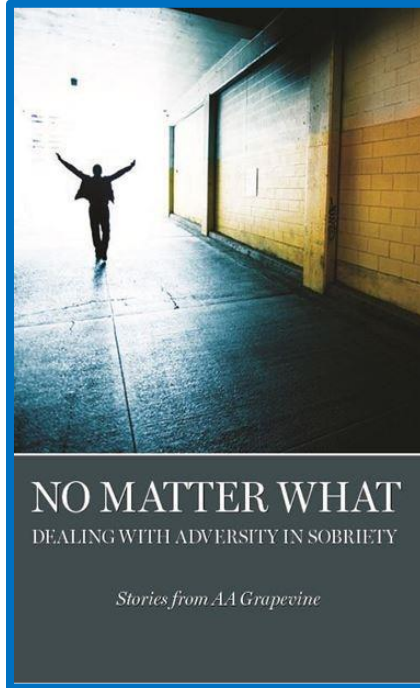
**January 8, 2022**  
**Host Group – Reno Happy Hour**  
**Marilyn S. - Los Angeles CA**

**February 12, 2022**  
**Host Group – ALOHA Group**  
**Kristene & Jim B. – Reno NV**

Speaker Chair – Kevin B. (775) 470-4614  
Need more info call: Central Office – (775) 355-1151  
Join us for dinner at Cafe Central inside the Silver legacy @ 5pm

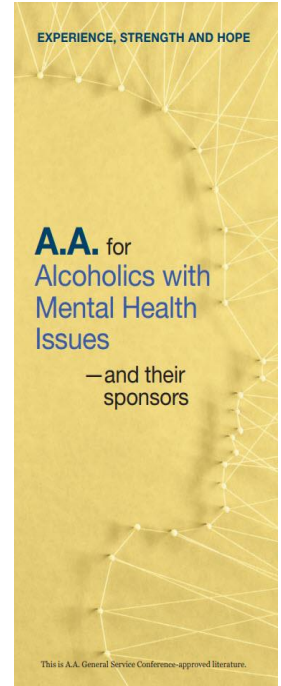
## BOOK OF THE MONTH

**\$2 OFF**



## PAMPHLET OF THE MONTH

**\$0.65**



# OTHER AREA EVENTS

**Please send event flyers in .JPG format**



NNIG Service workshop

September 25, 2021

10 am – Noon Central Office

Are you interested in Service?

NNIG is looking to fill many positions of service to help the still suffering alcoholic. In this workshop you will learn from knowledgeable presenters in service.

*There will be snacks!!*

- ❖ The What
  - What is Service? What do we do?
- ❖ The How
  - How is service done in NNIG? How can I be of service?
- ❖ The Why
  - Why should I do service? Why is service important?

A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die.

Third Legacy Manual p.7

For more information call or email Central Office 775-355-1151  
officemanager@nnig.org

## 46th Annual Lake Tahoe Fall Festival

Dates: Oct 1-3, 2021  
Location: Harveys Lake Tahoe

[www.laketahoeallfestival.net](http://www.laketahoeallfestival.net)

### AA Speakers

- Hilary R. Dallas, Texas Friday night
- Richard W. Saturday morning
- Paul W. Sunset Beach, CA Saturday night
- Leah D. Sacramento Young People's meeting Saturday late night
- Mike M. Napa Sunday morning

Book Hotel Reservations (early bird pricing available until August 31!);  
[Caesars.com/book](http://Caesars.com/book)  
Use S09LTF1 for discount code!

## 8th Annual\* Sober Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Friday Night at the Aces



**Rescheduled to Sept 17th!**  
**See FB page for update**

Tickets: \$24 per person

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO **EVENTBRITE** USING THE LINK BELOW:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8th-annual-girls-just-wanna-have-fun-registration-1538378235>

You can also pay on **Venmo**—

Be sure to tell me how many tickets you are purchasing.

Or Contact: Jami Fornelli 775 303-5885 [jami4nell@yahoo.com](mailto:jami4nell@yahoo.com)

Jami Fornelli

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venmo

Scan this code to pay

\*we missed 2020

## Central office report from Ronda H. September 7, 2021

The book of the month is Grapevines "No Matter What, Dealing with Adversity in Sobriety" \$2 off. This book features stories of the hardest things life can throw at you and still stay sober. Pamphlet is "A.A. for Alcoholics with Mental Health Issues – and their sponsors". Thank you everyone that has been in the office this last month with the fires, smoke and world in general we have been happy to see all the grateful alcoholics smiling eyes.

Volunteer Hours: 124

Calls into Central Office: 146

- Calls for AA help - 4
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 3
- Meeting information - 64
- Retail / merchandise - 15
- Other 12 step programs - 3
- Events – 13
- New to AA - 1
- Business/Central office- 55
- Visitors – 247

Ronda  
Central Office Manager



**August 2021:**

**BIRTHDAYS for August**  
**Linda G. 29 Years**  
**Danny S. 19 Years**

**Previous Birthdays**

**July 2021**  
 Barbara M. 46 Years  
 Joanne P. 9 Years

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**  
 Donn T. - 31 Years!!!  
 Mag BIRTHDAYS  
 Joni S. 26 Years  
 Ron T. 10 Years  
 Ann G. 1 LOT  
 Donn T. 31 Years

**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. 33 Years, Patz F. 27 Years  
 Sharon F. 36 Years

**September 2020:**  
 Linda G. 28 years, Dan S. 19 years  
 Phil S. 44 years, Michael H. 25 years



It has  
cannot  
offer her  
colors  
until she  
has grown  
her  
leaves.

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.**

**Buena Vista**  
 10am Friday  
 627 Sunnyside Dr  
 Reno

**EARLY BIRDS**  
**6:45AM**  
**MON-SAT**  
**412 W MUSSER ST.**  
**CARSON CITY**

**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  
 White Pine County/Ely: (775) 296-0656 Jim C.

**Silver Springs Group**  
 7pm Thurs & Sat  
 2945 Ft Church Hill St.  
 Silver Springs

**The Sierra City Fellowship**  
**7pm Thursdays**  
**13 Castagna Alley**  
**Sierra City CA**

**N.N.I.G. STEERING COMMITTEE**  
 Last Tuesday of each month, 5:30 PM  
 Central Office, 436 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks

**N.N.I.G. BUSINESS MEETING**  
 First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 PM  
 Alano Club, 1640 Prater Way, Sparks

**N.N.I.G. MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING**  
 7:00 PM Silver Legacy - Silver Baron A  
 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 6:30 Central Office

**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** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Friday October 29 - Nevada Day  
 Thursday November 11 - Veterans Day  
 November 25 & 26 - Thanksgiving & Family Day  
 December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day  
 December 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> - Inventory  
 January 1 - New Year's Day

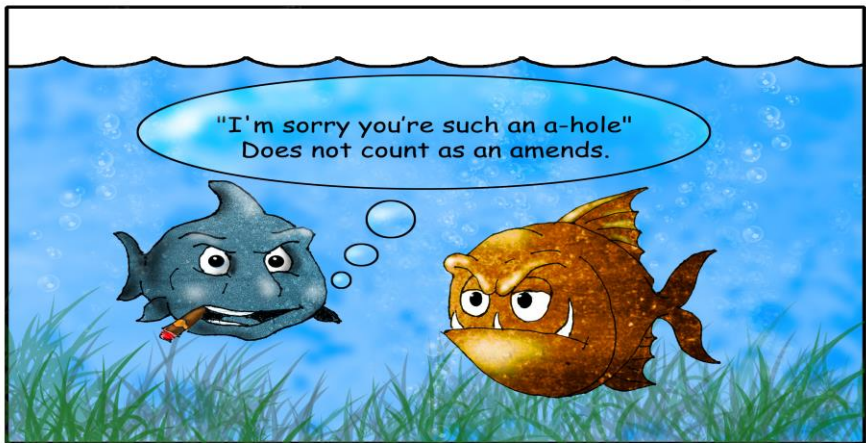
## THE PROMISES

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves. Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us- sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.

The Big Book- Pages 83-84

### Drink Like A Fish

by Rick M.



**NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2021**

<b>Group</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>YTD</b>
3rd Tradition Secular Group		110.00	Happy Hour Reno		800.00
A Vision for You			Incline to be Sober		
A Way Home		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	253.11	604.35	Ladies of the Lake	77.07	204.66
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	80.00
Amen Maintenance Meeting		276.00	Minden Saturday Night Fever		
Back Room Group		391.20	Minden Stephanie Way Group		386.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night			Minden Wednesday Night Live		100.00
Battle Mountain Fellowship		20.00	Minden/Gardnerville Group		440.29
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		1039.50	NNIG Business Meeting		92.87
Blairsden Graeagle Sister In Recovery			Mt Rose Recovery Room	295.75	2367.97
Caring & Sharing In Stead		994.54	Our Common Welfare		
Carlin Crystal Light Group			Our Group Big Book		0.00
Carson AA Way of Life			Out and Sober	150.00	150.00
Carson After Shifters		250.00	Portola Group		
Carson Airport			Positive Acceptance Group		408.53
Carson Big Book Experience		118.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		90.00
Carson Brown Baggers		962.80	RENVPA		
Carson Dr. Bob Nightingales		110.50	RTC Afternoon Delight		240.00
Carson Early Birds	731.26	2707.98	RTC Almost Heaven	50.00	1100.00
Carson Happy Hour	341.65	1508.21	RTC Aloha Group		2400.00
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		30.00	RTC Big Book Study		259.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		200.00	RTC Beginners are Winners	416.52	416.52
Carson Men's NO BS Stag			RTC Coffee with Bill		81.00
Carson Sandbaggers		300.00	RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting		301.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Grapevine/Big Book		85.00
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station			RTC How We Stay Stopped		130.00
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
Chester Fellowship		250.00	RTC Recien Liegados		
Chester Saturday Night Group		200.00	RTC Mid-Day Group ON-LINE	36.26	382.95
Choices		200.00	RTC Monday Night Men's		
Cornerstone Group			RTC New Awakenings Group		972.11
Crystal Bay Nooners		500.00	RTC Little Rascals		197.50
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62		400.00	RTC Sober N Sane		105.00
Dayton Sunday Morning			Serenity Sisters Big Book		
Decompression Chamber/online	85.76	85.76	RTC Seniors In Sobriety		250.00
Deer Park Rebels		66.00	Serenity on Sundays		150.00
District 12			Silver Springs Groups		
District 14		650.00	Sisters in Sobriety		199.40
District 2	15.00	629.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		81.00
District 22	52.00	370.00	Sober Readers		
Driars 4th Dimension		0.00	South Shore Group		60.00
Driars 4th Dimension- ON-LINE	30.00	202.53	South Reno on Sunday		70.39
Driar's Oldtimer, Newcomers		50.00	Step 1		40.00
Driar's Positive Step			Southside Group		1004.22
Eye Opener	50.00	571.35	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		24.15	Susanville Wed Womens		
Fernley Groups		400.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		62.50
Fireside Group		540.00	The Rock Group		209.50
First Responders			The Twilight Zone		75.00
Galena Friday Night		133.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		1200.00
Ground Zero		1200.00	Truckee Fellowship		235.80
Grupo Accion		60.00	Truckee River Men's Stag		2388.34
Grupo Fe Y Escoeranza		20.00	The Next Chapter	100.00	100.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz	10.00	20.00	Virginia City Plug in the Jug		212.00
Grupo Latino			Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		
Grupo Nueva Vida		20.00	Westwood AA		72.50
Grupo Solo Por Hoy			Whitaker Park		
Jamesville God Grant Me		141.27	Whole in the Ground Sunnyside	250.00	525.00
Jamesville Women's Monday Night		103.00	Willing to go to any Lengths		1101.00
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		
			Women's 24 Hours A Day		
			Women's New Beginnings		250.00
			Women's New Harmony		355.00
			Yerington Group		
			Young at Heart		
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2,984.38</b>	<b>38,217.80</b>

## Coming Clean

A sneaky gas station thief makes amends for way he used to roll. Years ago, I lived in an apartment next to a gas station. I was often broke and depressed, and I would go steal the toilet paper from its restroom. I did this many times during my short stay at that apartment. In my 18th year in AA, this theft came into my conscience, so I wrote it down on my inventory.



After a couple of meditations and conversations with other people, I called someone who gave me directions to the house where the past owners of the gas station lived. It was now 22 years later. I knocked on the door, and a friendly woman answered. I asked if "Paul" was there. She explained that Paul no longer lived there, and that they had divorced recently. I explained to her that I was there to try to make a past wrong right. She assured me that she was the co-owner of the station, so I knew I was in front of the right person. She let me know in a very kind way that she knew someone had been stealing from them back then, but had no idea who it was. She said that my just showing up to make it right was enough for her. But I told her that I thought I could do better.

I went to my car and took out 90 rolls of toilet paper I had bought. As I set the rolls down on the floor, I looked up at her. She was starting to weep. Then I did.

Then, after a minute, she looked at me and said that she had only two rolls of toilet paper left, was on a fixed income and didn't have enough to buy any more.

I was amazed by the turn of events that morning, and so was my new friend. I gave her a big hug. We were definitely in the presence of a Higher Power. BY: NICK B. | LONDON, OHIO

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## Interview with an Alcoholic on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Q) Can you please introduce yourself and tell us your sobriety date?

A) Yes, my name is Kent, and I am a grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous. And my sobriety date is 3/1/1982. My home group is the Sunnyside Group in Reno, Nevada.

Q) Where did you get sober?

A) I got sober, this time, at the old Sparks Alano Club and at the church at 501 California, Reno.

Q) Briefly describe your drinking.

A) It was bad, right from the beginning. Although I went through an experimental stage, I really started right when I turned 21, very soon crossing over the line into alcoholism. I drank alone, rarely in bars, but I got into trouble right away.

Q) What brought you to Alcoholics Anonymous?

A) It was to honor a pledge I had made to my parents about a month prior to that first meeting. I was a continual source of heartache and embarrassment to them and myself. I said "Give me one more shot at it and if I screw up again, I will go to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. So, I screwed up again by totaling my car in quite a horrific accident. But I made it to that meeting the next night. That was November 13<sup>th</sup>, 1969.

Q) How did you hear about Alcoholics Anonymous?

A) It was in that same "intervention" by my parents. My mother handed me her first edition copy of the Big Book and said "you know Kent, I am an alcoholic who stopped drinking many years ago

through a Program and Fellowship described in that book. I've been waiting patiently until I thought you would really understand that you needed to do something about your drinking." I had never heard of AA, and I can't say that I had heard the term "alcoholic." But I knew very early on in my drinking that I could not control it. So, I really knew the definition of something that I didn't even have a word for.

Q) What were your first impressions of Alcoholics Anonymous?

A) The first meeting I went to turned out to be an old-timer's meeting. The first guy who greeted me was 84-year-old Alan and the others in attendance didn't seem much younger.

This was quite a shock for a kid who was barely 22 ½. But I sat there and listened. I don't remember much that was said, but I felt a glimmer of hope and I felt welcomed.

Q) What do you remember the old timers telling you in the beginning?

A) They told me to keep coming back. They told me that I needed to develop faith and find a power outside of myself. They also said that though my condition might seem hopeless, there was a way out.

Q) What was the hardest suggestion for you to follow?

A) Honestly, there were 12 suggestions hard for me to follow, known as 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. I had to get away from the idea that my case was somehow different, and that my problem was just physical. Get rid of the booze and you get rid of the problem. How wrong I was.

Q) What was the easiest?

A) To keep coming back.

Q) What do you tell newcomers today?

A) To keep coming back. I tell them that it could take a while before some of what they hear might make sense. But AA has been the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. I can't thank AA enough.

Q) What is one of your favorite AA sayings?

A) "Don't leave before the miracle happens"

Q) Do you have a favorite line out of the Big Book?

A) There is a section in "A Vision For You" that brings tears to my eyes and joy to my heart every time it is read:

"I know I must get along without liquor, but how can I? Have you a sufficient substitute?" Yes, there is a substitute, and it is vastly more than that. It is a fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous. There you will find release from care, boredom and worry. Your imagination will be fired. Life will mean something at last. The most satisfactory years of your existence lie ahead. Thus, we find the fellowship, and so will you.

Q) What's been your favorite service position?

A) I think that my current position as a Central Office volunteer has been my favorite. A good friend asked me to try it out while she "took a breather". Well, I'm coming up on 4 years at it, and I can't be more grateful. I get to meet a lot of old and new friends, who are, just like me,

trying to stay sober one day at a time. We often have people call or come in who desperately need the help that we have been given. If I can be of help, great. If not, I'm at least reminded of why I'm there.

Q) Any final thoughts?

A) What – am I going to die? When I first came to Alcoholics Anonymous, I was 22 and even though I eventually found a Young People's group whose members were anywhere from 25 to 30, I couldn't imagine living that long and wasn't sure that I wanted to. It was thinking like that and a reluctance to work the Steps of the Program that caused me to not have my last drink until I was nearly 35. Now I'm approaching 75, and I wouldn't mind seeing a few more years after that. This is a wonderful way of life.



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