

March, 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Concept III	2
Events	3
Book of the Month	3
Showcase Meetings and more	4
Service Opportunities	5
Group Contributions	6
Letter to AA	7
Tasting is not drinking	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) 355-1560 EMAIL: officemanager@nnig.org Web Site/Meeting Schedule: nnig.org The Bracer: nnigbracer@gmail.com



NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

I KISSED MY BABY GOODBYE

A mother goes to jail at nine months sober, yet finds a beautiful way to get through

I was nine months and one day sober when I was sentenced to two years in prison for my fourth DUI. I was 29 years old, married, and the mama of a redheaded baby boy. I thought my life was over. But I had yet to find out what old-timers already know: Happiness is in the journey, not the destination.

On Nov. 9, 2011, I got sober for what I hope to be the final time. I'd been trying to get and stay sober since I was 22, but the only thing that I'd done perfectly over the years was to return to AA every time I fell flat on my face. I was doing well for a while: I was sober, married, working fulltime, and had a baby. Life got good and I got comfortable. I forgot where I came from; I forgot how bad it would get once I picked up that first drink. Gradually, I stopped doing all of the things that were keeping me sober, and I started drinking again.

I'd been going to court twice a month after I got sober again and I lived in constant fear. Not knowing what to do, I went to see my sponsor. She told me to pray to have God's will work in my life. That was not the answer I wanted to hear! I was facing some serious jail time, and that was the best she could tell me? But I did it anyway. I was angry when I was sentenced to two years in jail.

I called up my sponsor, crying and yelling, and she told me I was at a turning point in my sobriety: Either God is everything, or he is nothing. She added that I had to accept that either he has a plan for me (and it's far greater than anything I could ever imagine) or he doesn't. What was it going to be? I was desperate. I was out of ideas, and I didn't know what else to do, so I decided to trust and turn my will and my life over to God.

I kissed my husband and my baby goodbye, and I went to serve my time. I served 363 days in the county jail, and I was never alone because I had God and the people of Alcoholics Anonymous with me every step of the way.

Leaving my husband and my baby was the hardest thing that I've ever had to do, but I had to clean up the wreckage of my past before I could be in the present. My sponsor told me that there were people in jail that I could help, and I thought she was crazy! But God is clever, and he placed in my path a girl who was three days sober and was filled with fear. In jail, I had the honor and privilege of taking her through the Steps. After she went home, there was another girl who needed help. So again, I was able to give back what had been so freely given to me—in the last place that I could ever have expected. That was an incredible gift.

Today I know that God has a plan for me, and it's far greater than anything I could've ever imagined. If going to jail for a year was what it took for me to get sober, then I'll take it. And if I can help even just one woman with my experience, then it has all been worth it. I have 26 months sober today, and that has nothing to do with me. That's God working. Today my life is beautiful, and I get to be a part of it—because I'm sober. BY: AMBER M. | ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc, October, 2014. Reprinted with permission



Concept III – Right of Decision Applies to all Levels of Participation in the Structure of A.A. World Services.

You should be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board as background for this Concept, both of which are found in The A.A. Service Manual. For, except for the specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every A.A. entity — at all levels of service has the right "to decide . . . how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises." That is, they can "decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions." This is "the essence of 'The Right of Decision." But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its "trusted servants." If the groups instruct their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the area conference is hamstrung. If the G.S.R.s instruct the area delegates rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, "our Conference delegates are primarily the servants of A.A. as they should . . . cast their votes . . . according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time." Similarly, if the General Service Board, acting through its subsidiary boards, "were to attempt to manage" the General Service Office and the AA Grapevine "in detail, then . . . the staff members . . . would quickly become demoralized; they would be turned into buck-passers and rubber stamps; their choice would be to rebel and resign, or to submit and rot." Bill warns against using "The Right of Decision" as an excuse for failure to make the proper reports of actions taken; or for exceeding a clearly defined authority; or for failing to consult the proper people before making an important decision. But he concludes: "Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other."



Reprinted from The Twelve Concepts for World Service illustrated, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. You may see the whole pamphlet at AA.org or get one from NNIG Central Office.

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 <u>nnigbracer@gmail.com</u>

Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the month.

NNIG & AREA EVENTS

Events hosted by Northern Nevada InterGroup to support Central Office

 MNIG Monthly Speaker Meetings

 Silver Legacy – 407 North Virginia Street, Reno 89501

 Location- Silver Barron Room 1-6

 Monthly Speaker Meeting Doors open at 6:30 PM Speaker at 7:00 PM

> <u>March 11, 2023</u> <u>Speaker- Fernando S. Concord CA</u> <u>Host Group- Central Office</u>

April 8, 2023 Speaker- Tamara B. Roseville CA Host Group- Pyramid Way Group

> <u>May 13, 2023</u> Speaker- Jami F. Host Group- TBT

June 10, 2023 Speaker-John H. Apache Junction AZ Host Group-Jaywalkers Group

July 8, 2023 Speaker- Don L. Bellingham WA Host Group- KISS Group

<u>August 12, 2023</u> Speaker- Tina A. Hollister CA Host Group- Minden-Gardnerville Group

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 with the speaker





Answering Service is in need of members to answer the phone after hours

- 4-hour shifts
- Training provided
- 1 year sobriety requirement

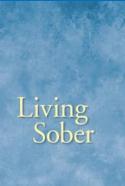
Please call Central Office 775-355-1151

OTHER AREA EVENTS

When anyone, anywhere reaches out I want the hand of A.A. to always be there...



BOOK OF THE MONTH \$2 OFF



<section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text><text><text><text>

MEETINGS AND MORE

Central office report from Ronda H. March 3, 2023

The book of the month is "Living Sober" \$2 off. Pamphlet is "Do You Think You're Different" \$0.40. Check the website for all service commitments. Please check website for office closures. Website had 18.081 Views 78% from Mobile devices. Sign up for The Blast, email of what's happening in our local AA. Email officemanager@nnig.org to be added to this once a month email. **Oolunteer Hours: 91.75**

Calls into Central Office: 147

- Calls for AA help 4 •
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen 1
- Meeting information 33
- Retail / merchandise 13 •
- Other 12 step programs 3
- Events 7 .
- New to AA 4
- Business/Central office-84
- Oisitors 267, -Dogs- 4

Ronda H. Central Office Manager



Previous Birthdays February 2023 Your Name Here!! January 2023 December 2022 Sean S. - 32 Years November 2022 Sharron S. 38 Ugars

Rich A. 36 Years October 2022 Nancy A. 37 Years Dave S. 39 years September 2022 Kathy S. 14 years Mike tl. 27 years Phil S. 46 years August Linda G. 30 years Danny S. 20 Years Jula Joanne P. 10 years Jane Ann G. - 18 years Ron T. - 11 years MAY Donn T. 32 Years <u>April</u> Paul 31 years March Kent L. 40 years Kim D. 45 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 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



For more event information contact Central Office @ 355-1151 or nnig.org

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

N.N.I.G. STEERING COMMITTEE

Last Tuesday of each month, 5:30 PM Central Office, 436 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks **N.N.I.G. BUSINESS MEETING** First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 PM Alano Club, 1640 Prater Way, Sparks **N.N.I.G. MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING**

7:00 PM Silver Legacy - Silver Baron A 2nd Saturday of the month **N.N.I.G. H&I** First Monday of each month, 5:30 PM Central Office 436 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks



AREA CLUBS

Reno / Sparks Clubs Alano Club Sparks, 1640 Prater Way (775) 359-2727 Driars Club Reno 345 S. Wells Avenue (775) 324-9210 Triangle Club Reno 635 S Wells Avenue (775) 324-9777 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

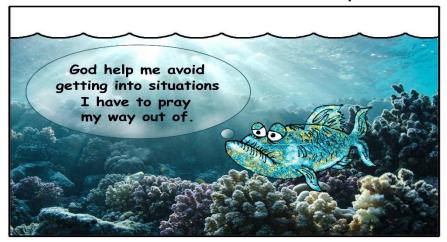


<u>The office will be closed the</u> <u>Following holidays.</u>

- MONDAY MAY 29[™] MEMORIAL DAY
- SATURDAY JUNE FOUNDERS DAY
- TUESDAY JULY 4[™] INDEPENDENCE
- DAY
- MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4
 LABOR DAY
- FRIDAY OCTOBER 27[™]
 NEVADA DAY
- THURSDAY & FRIDAY NOVEMBER 23.24TH THANKSGIVING
- MONDAY DECEMBER 25TH
 CHRISTMAS

Drink Like A Fish

by Rick M.



District Meetings

DISTRICT-2 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 Central Office Zoom # 91904741396 Password D2 DISTRICT 4 First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM-Zoom ID: 876 7717 4234 PW: District4 DISTRICT 6 2nd Sunday of even numbered months-For information email district6@nevadaarea42.org DISTRICT 8 First Sunday, 3:30 p.m. on odd months Call (760) 937-8407 DISTRICT 10A Third Sunday of every other month, 1:30 PM 680 River St. Elko, NV DISTRICT 10B Dark since 2017 DISTRICT 11 Only holds meetings 4 time a year, call DCM DISTRICT 12 2nd Saturday of each Month at 5:00 PM- 457 Esmeralda Street Wolf Center, Fallon NV DISTRICT 14 3rd Wed of each "Odd" month at 6:00 PM -265 Bear Street in Kings Beach CA DISTRICT 16 Meeting is held 3rd Tuesday of the month Sparks Family Christian Church 510 Greenbrae Blvd 6:00PM-7:00PM DISTRICT 18 DARK DISTRICT DISTRICT 20 Third Saturday of Jan, Mar, May, Aug & Oct 10:30 AM- Contact DCM @ district20@nevadaarea42.org for location DISTRICT 22 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month 6:30 PM @ **Central Office**

3RD STEP PRAYER

"God, I offer myself to Thee—to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!" (p. 63 BB) God, Take my will and my life. Guide me in my recovery. Show me how to live. AMEN (the step on p. 59 BB)

Lakes Crossing Center Meetings

Lakes Crossing would like to start meetings back up at their facility. This is a psychiatric evaluation and treatment center, for incarcerated individuals.

Location: 500 Galletti Way, Sparks, NV 89431 The Need:

- Provide two meetings both on Monday's at 6pm. o One serves primarily women. The women's building could get
 - One serves primarily women. The women's building could get by with every other week if volunteers are scarce. If another day is better for the women's building, we can do that too, any day but Wednesday works for them.
- One at the main building. Requested every week.

Requirements:

- All volunteers must be vaccinated against Covid.
- New volunteers to Lake's Crossing must undergo a quick background check which isn't to explore all legal entanglements, just current ones that are open.
- Orientation. This could be done at any of the TB Tests/readings. Please coordinate with Melissa Curley, facility coordinator. 775-688-0492
- The third step which is the most labor intensive is the 2 step TB test. This
 requires the person to come in to get test administered, then come back 3
 days to get it read, then come back a week from the first administration,
 they have to come back again to get the other arm tested and then return
 again 3 day later.
 - The facility is a 24 hr facility so nurses are available all day to read the tests at your convenience.

Contact:

Joe H. NAGSC Corrections Chair, 415-203-4888 nagsccorrectionalfacilities@nevadaarea42.org,

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2023

	ruary	YTD	<u>Group</u> Fe	bruary	YTD
3rd Tradition Secular Group			Happy Hour Reno		497.00
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	0.68	20.68	Hispanic State Convention		
A Way Home			Kings Beach AA Golden Group		
Alano Brown Baggers	445.00	145.00	Knuckleheads Ladies of the Lake		
Alano Big Book Study Alano Living Sober	145.00 120.00	120.00	Ladies of the Lake		
Alano Jaywalkers	120.00	47.12	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE		33.56
Alano Open Heart Open Mind			and bay broup on Ente		00.00
Alano Women in Recovery		32.75	Minden Language of the Heart		
Amen Maintenance Meeting		300.00	Minden Saturday Night Fever		210.00
Back Room Group		94.80			
Back to Basics Saturday Night			Minden Stephanie Way Group	117.00	117.00
Battle Mountain Fellowship		434.80	Minden Wednesday Night Live Minden/Gardnerville Group	14.95	101.91
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group Buena Vista Group		434.00	Milden/Galdhervine Group	14.90	77.75
Caring & Sharing in Stead		206.65	NNIG Business Meeting	39.00	63.00
Carson Airport AA		200.00	Old Time A.A. Group	00.00	00.00
Carson Big Book Experience			Out and Sober		
Carson Brown Baggers			Portola Group		
Carson Early Birds	558.67	1696.28	Positive Acceptance Group		810.85
Carson Happy Hour			Professionals Meeting		
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free			Pyramid Way Discussion Group		
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's			Recien ilegados Resentments And A Coffee Pot		
Carson Men's NO BS Stag Carson Sandbaggers	200.00	400.00	RTC Almost Heaven	100.00	200.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety	200.00	400.00	RTC Aloha Group	100.00	847.31
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station			RTC Beginners are Winners		047.01
Carson Valley Gratitude			RTC Big Book Study		
Carson Women's Night Out			RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting		
Chester Saturday Night Group			RTC Good Morning Sobriety		
Choices			RTC How We Stay Stopped		
Cornerstone Group		150.00	RTC Little Rascals		
Crystal Bay Nooners			RTC Men's Trudgers		
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62 Dayton Red Rooster		200.00	RTC Monday Night Mens RTC New Awakenings Group		302.83
Dayton Sunday Morning	200.00	200.00	RTC Recien Llegados		502.00
Decompression Chamber/online	366.31	527.24	RTC Women's Just for Today	95.55	95.55
District 14		100.00	Serenity on Sundays		
District 2	10.00	19.00	Silver Springs Groups		2010/01/01 02/01/201001
District 22	34.00	64.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		69.22
Double R at Noon		337.00	Slide Mountain Candle light Group)	
Driar's Oldtimer, Newcomers			South Shore Group	004.40	444.00
Driar's Serenity Night Owls Eye Operner		350.00	Southside Group Spring Festival	224.40	411.60
Fallon Fallen Women's AA Meeting		330.00	Step 1		
Fallon Grapevine Online			Sunnyside Group		497.50
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch			Tahoe City Fellowship		
Fireside Group			The Next Chapter		
Galena Friday Night			The Next Chapter		
Ground Zero		200.00	The Rock Group		
Grupo Accion	00.00	20.00	The Shop	300.00	300.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz Grupo Nueva Vida	20.00	30.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol Truckee Fellowship		
Groupo Latino Reno	10.00	10.00	The cheer enowship		
Incline Village Fellowship	10.00	10.00	Truckee River Men's Stag	596.00	596.00
Jamesville God Grant Me			Verdi Greener Pastures		
Jamesville Women's Monday Night			Virgina City Plug in the Jug		
			Wednesday Night Beginners Meet	ing	
			Weekend Warriors		
			Westwood Monday Night		
			Whole in the Ground Sunnyside Whole in the Soul		
			Whole in the Soul		
			Willing to go to any Lengths		
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		
			Women's New Beginnings	225.00	225.00
			Women's New Harmony		
			Young at Heart		

Total 3,376.56 11,141.40

To the Amazing Northern Nevada Fellowship:

Hi my name is Don D and I am an alcoholic. I serve as the Secretary for Intergroup for Northern Nevada. I wanted to take a moment to recognize a couple of things from this month and say thank you.

Since March 2020, NNIG has had moments where we have not gotten to hear the voice of our fellowship as much as we would have liked to. As things happened we saw our Service Committee positions become empty and our monthly business meeting attendance down. Through all of that though there were many who continued to suit up and show up reminding us AA was alive and well. This last Wednesday the Sparks Alano Club room was filled with members representing their home groups, those trusted servants who have taken service chair commitments, and others who just wanted to continue to be a presence for our body. It was a moment that made me take pause to be reminded of how it is a We thing. I was absolutely excited to the core to see so many faces, to hear presentations well prepared, and to have new trusted servants ask the body to take things back so we can honor the 2nd Tradition of the group conscience of all those in Northern Nevada AA who contribute.

It was fitting to have that be the result of a wintery February that gave way to an incredible showing. This time of year is one where we honor our voice and the best truths found by listening carefully and hearing what all is to be said. In how we say these things we display our knowledge of the Traditions in how we treat each other. I have heard "what we get done here will never be as important as how we treat each other." That to me is how we live the traditions and "walk the walk" of that spirit that is spoken of in the 9th Concept for our trusted servants. My greatest hope as we come back together in the next couple of months to discuss the preamble is that we take pause before we speak and listen to know that our truth may not be the only one. I hope everyone remembers that the Right of Decision is there, as is the Right of Appeal. I hope we are reminded of how all the Traditions distill back down to the first of Unity, and whatever decision we make we do it by thorough discussion where every voice is heard that cares to be.

I also encourage all the groups who care to participate to please look at the upcoming General Service Conference Agenda items that will be presented at the Northern Area Roundtables and Area 42 Spring Assembly. Please share with your GSR or DCM how you see those items and what they mean to you for the future of how we not only reach the still suffering alcoholic today but the ones not yet born. We face challenges as we always have in how we best make 12th Step work possible. One of the ways we can best ensure that we do is by hearing your voice. It counts as all the voices before us have helped us never let good be the enemy of the best. We have a whole new generation of alcoholics who are finding their information in new ways and we must meet them there. As Bill W. said in the 1960 General Service Conference "Our 12 Steps probably won't change; the Traditions, not at all likely. But our manner of communication, our manner of organizing ourselves for function, for service-let us hope that this goes on changing for the better, forever." Our Delegate, Jake S, from the South and our Alternate Delegate, Paul E. will be focused on Public Information. How can we let people who don't yet know who we are or what we do/don't do find us in a new age? Please think about this and bring your voice to AA so we can always find the collective conscious of who we are. Yours in Grateful Service, Don D. NNIG Secretary/NAGSC Public Information Chair

"Tasting Is Not Drinking"

An AA has a reminder of the cunning nature of alcoholism while on a trip with his wife

A few years ago, my wife and I were in Galena, Ill. for a weekend. Galena is a kind of tourist town with bed and breakfasts, motels, trendy stores and antique shops. There is also a winery retail store. When I was drinking, I seldom drank wine. It was one of the few things I did not drink.

While we were there, my wife wanted to go to the winery to get some wine for her brothers and sisters. I said OK since I never drank it anyway.

Now, I had always heard that there would be times in every alcoholic's life during which he would be powerless over the first drink. I always thought that was meant for other people. I have a good program. I work the Steps, go to meetings, and pray. It won't happen to me, I figured. Until I got to Galena.

We went into the wine shop at 11 a.m. The store was filled with bottles of wine and all the accessories: decanters, cork screws, wine racks. There was a bar with about four or five people sitting at it, sampling wines.

A guy behind the bar was talking about the fruitiness and bouquet of various wines. The reality was that they were drinking at 11 a.m. for free.

I felt myself being drawn to the bar like a magnet, and for a brief moment I thought, "Tasting is not drinking." It would be OK. I was frozen, afraid to move. I started sweating and was really scared. I really wanted to go over and drink the wine. I took a few deep breaths, and asked the man upstairs to get me out of there.

I walked over to my wife and told her that I could not stay there. I went outside and sat on the front step. It was about October, about 40 degrees and windy. I sat there for 20 minutes and thanked my higher power for getting me out of there.

If I had stepped the other way, I probably wouldn't be here now. At that moment, I was truly powerless over the first drink.

One of the old timers who goes to the same meetings as I do, says that the AA program is like insurance. On that day in Galena, I used my insurance. BY: PAUL K. | BOLINGBROOK, ILLINOIS



Scan here to go to the website

> NNIG Intergroup Office 436 S. Rock Blvd. Sparks, NV 89431 Return Service Requested

THE BRACER SUBSCRIPTION WOULD MAKE A FANTASTIC GIFT! THIS IS ALSO A GOOD TIME TO UPDATE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION! USE SUBSCRIPTION FORM BELOW!

NNIG BRACER SUBSCRIPTION FORM
