


NNIG MONTHLY MEETING
SPEAKER



November 4, 2023
 Leslie K.
 Modesto CA
 For the Effect
 Speaker at 7:00

Silver Legacy · 407 North Virginia St., Reno · Doors open at 6:30



November 2023

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NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

Moments of Being
 BY: ELIZABETH E. | ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

With over 35 years of sobriety, she came back to the Eleventh Step and had a spiritual awakening

I had my first spiritual experience in sobriety the day I went to my first meeting in 1975. I was 33 years old and had had enough. At that meeting, I didn't hear a lot of what was said, but I felt love—a love that I had never experienced before. I know that my Higher Power was in that room.

As I look back today at my 39 years of sobriety, I see so many spiritual experiences, too numerous to recount. Intermixed with these experiences were the usual life situations we all deal with like the death of loved ones and divorces. My Higher Power helped me walk through everything.

When I had about 15 years of sobriety, I found myself struggling with some PTSD rooted in abuse I experienced as a child. For many years, I had contended with depression and anxiety related to all this. I was aware that God was with me, but I did most of the leading. God became my co-pilot.

Over the years, my meeting attendance fell off a bit. But in 2009, I re-dedicated myself to serving AA and giving back what I had been so freely given. But even after that, I had become reluctant to leave the house much. I only went out three times a week for meetings and once a week for groceries. I was retired and single, with no family in town, and so, there was no one to see and nothing to do.

One day, I came across an AA slogan that said, "If God is your co-pilot, change seats." That got my attention. I determined that I was missing something in my Eleventh Step. I had worked Steps One through Nine; I took a Tenth Step inventory occasionally; and nodded at Steps Eleven and Twelve. So I revisited Step Eleven.

I found many years ago that I could practice mindfulness, a sort of meditating without sitting and closing my eyes. However, I never really considered the intent and practice of Step Eleven and what that would look like for me. I was frustrated with living with my anxieties and wanted to get closer to my Higher Power.

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

A A's

Recovery Step Eleven:

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry to that out."

Three

Unity Tradition Eleven:

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Legacies

Service Concept Eleven:

While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers,

Concept XI The following are "several principles . . . which" apply to A.A. World Services, Inc:

1. The status of executives No active service can function well unless it has sustained and competent executive direction. This must always head up in one person, supported by such assistants as are needed. That person has to have ample freedom and authority to do the job, and should not be interfered with so long as the work is done well. c. and AA Grapevine, Inc.:

2. Paid workers, how compensated Each paid executive, staff member or consultant should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar services or abilities in the commercial world . . . Cheap help is apt to feel insecure and inefficient; it is very costly in the long run. This is neither good spirituality nor good business. Assuming service money is available, we should therefore compensate our workers well.

3. Rotation among paid staff workers At A.A.'s General Service Office, most staff members' assignments are changed every two years. When engaged, each staff member is expected to possess the general ability to do, or to learn how to do, any job in the place — excepting for office management

4. Full "Participation" of paid workers is highly important We have already discussed the necessity of giving key paid personnel a voting representation on our committees and corporate boards. They should enjoy a status suitable to their responsibility, just as our volunteers do.

"The Twelve
Concepts for
World Service"



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.

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
 Location-Silver Barron Room 1-6



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



November 4, 2023
Speaker – Leslie K. Modesto, CA
Host Group – For the Effect

December 9, 2023
Speaker – Ron H. Portland, OR
Host Group- District 2

January 13, 2024
Speaker - Gary C. Reno, NV
Host Group – Happy Hour


February 10, 2024
Speaker – Georgia B. Montrose, CA
Host Group - District 16

NNIG Speaker Chair: Kevin B. 775-470-4614
 Need more info call: Central Office – (775) 355-1151
 Join us for dinner at Millie's @ ~5 pm with the speaker

NOVEMBER 11, 2023 GRATITUDE DINNER

Atlantis Hotel & Casino
Doors open 5pm
Dinner 6pm
Speaker:
Jennifer H. Dallas, TX

Tickets on sale \$65 @ Central Office
436 S. Rock Blvd Sparks Nv 89431
775-355-1151




NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA \$65

El Grande Events Center
670 Greenbrae Drive
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM
DINNER AT 7 PM
SPEAKER AT 8:30 PM

RAFFLE AND DJ HOSTED
DANCING TO FOLLOW



OTHER AREA EVENTS

Join us for the 4th Annual **Carson City Gratitude Dinner**

Saturday, November 18th

Doors open at 4:45pm
 Dinner starts at 5:30pm
 Speaker Meeting starts at 7:00pm

Fuji Park Exhibit Hall
 601 Old Clear Creek Rd.
 Carson City, NV 89701

Food::Fellowship::Fun

Faith B. for AA
 Marti C. for Al-anon

\$10 FOR TICKETS AND THEY GO ON SALE OCTOBER 1ST TO PURCHASE PLEASE CONTACT BELOW.

JO P. IN CARSON CITY (775) 431-3396
 CHUCK R. IN DAYTON (775) 901-0494



CACYPA Fundraiser

Just Desserts Bake Sale

November 10th
 Carson City Alano Club


8:30am to 8:30pm

Variety of desserts

Donations welcome
 Donate goods by 5:30 11/9



Aubreanna 775 315 8049 Any H 775 430 1842

District 16's 36th Annual Christmas Affair
 "A.A.'s Three Legacies – Our Common Solution"
 Saturday December 16th 2023
 12:00 to 5:00 PM

American Legion Doby Reid Post 30
 730 4th Street, Sparks, NV.

Come for food, fun, and fellowship!
 Please bring a dessert to share!!!

Service Panel Discussion: *12:15 PM
 Recovery, Unity, and Service
 (Brian W., Kristene B., Don II.)
 Santa: *1:30 PM

Turkey Dinner with all the Extras: *2:00 PM
 Speaker: *3:00 PM
 (Raymond B.)
 Raffle: After Speaker
 *All times are approximate

\$5.00 Suggested Contribution
 For raffle prize contributions, volunteer help, or information please call: Stacy P. (775) 830-9840

DISTRICT 20 & ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PRESENTS:

SOBER HOLIDAY DANCE

FRIDAY
 DECEMBER 8TH
 7:00 PM

FREE DINNER FAMILY FRIENDLY THIS IS A SOBER EVENT

LIVE MUSIC BY: FORGERY

Please bring a dessert for our Dessert Auction
 Lassen County Fairgrounds - Jansen Hall
 2400 West 1st St. Marysville, CA 95901-1099



Central office report from Ronda H. July 2023

The book of the month is "Our Great Responsibility" ONLY \$3. Pamphlet is "Frequently Asked Questions about AA." \$0.40. The Answering Service is in need 12-Step volunteers! Please call the office. Sign up for The Blast, email of what's happening in our local AA. Fellowship. Email officemanager@nnig.org to be added to this once-a-month email.

Volunteer Hours: 105 Hours

Calls into Central Office: 167

- Calls for AA help - 6
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 1
- Meeting information - 25
- Retail / merchandise - 20
- Other 12-step programs - 6
- Events - 31
- New to AA/ Talked with - 2
- Business/Central office- 76
- Visitors - 258 -Dogs- 4

Ronda H.
Central Office Manager



October 2023

Sharon F. 39 Years

Dave S. 40 Years

Previous Birthdays

September 2023

Phil S. 47 Years

Mike H. 28 Years

August 2023

Linda G. 30 Years

Joann P. 11 Years

JUNE

Ann G. 19 Years

Paul E. 32 years

Kyle 41 Years

MAY

Tom H. 21 Years

Donn T. 33 Years

Anonymous 38 Years

March 2023

Kent L. 41 Years

Kim D. 46 Years

December 2022

Sean S. - 32 Years

November 2022

Rich H. 36 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

Pyramid Way Discussion

Thursday 7 PM

2425 Pyramid Way

Sparks NV

Janesville Group

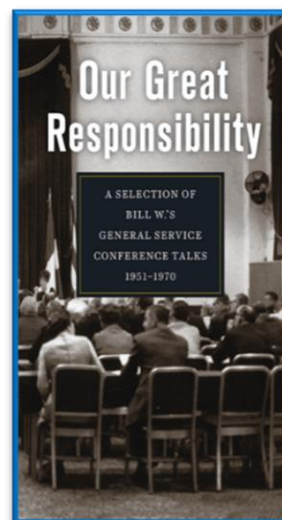
Thursday 7Pm

464 Main St.

Jamesville CA

BOOK OF
THE MONTH
ONLY \$3.00

PAMPHLET
OF
THE
MONTH
\$.40



Frequently
Asked
Questions
About A.A.



The Nickel
Mon-Thur.
5:30 PM
345 S. Wells
Ave
Reno NV

Sunday Morning
Sunday 10:30 AM
320 Dayton
Valley Rd
Dayton NV

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

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

N.N.I.G. MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING
 7:00 PM Silver Legacy - Silver Baron A
 2nd Saturday of the month
N.N.I.G. H&I
 Call Central Office
 775-355-1511

CENTRAL OFFICE
 IS OPEN ON SATURDAY
 FROM 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM!
 STOP IN FOR A CUP OF COFFEE
 AND FELLOWSHIP!

District Meetings

DISTRICT-2 2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 Central Office
 Zoom # 91904741396 Password D2

DISTRICT 4 First Thursday of each month, 6:00 pm
 Triangle Club OR Zoom ID: 916 3107 1014
 PW: bestdamnd4

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

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

AA Area 42 Translation & Interpretation Committee

hello hola

BILINGUAL SPANISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 To help translate Area42 minutes, emails, guidelines, etc.
 Any proficiency level or none! Northern or Southern Area

We meet online every 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm PST

We welcome all interested or just curious!

Questions?
 Call the Las Vegas Central Office:
 (702) 598-1888
 and ask that someone from the translation committee contact you

Zoom ID: 474 938 3601
 Passcode: Rule62

*servicio nos mantiene sober
 El servicio keeps us sober*

*We Are The
 Sunshine Committee*



Can You Help?

There are cases where sober AAs are unable to make it to meetings. They are in the hospital or physical rehabilitation hospital or are home-bound while they recuperate.

When you cannot attend meetings do you get 'squirrelly' or on edge? Be a part of carrying the message to those shut-ins by joining us as we trudge the road of happy destiny on the

Sunshine Committee!!

Sobriety requirement—1 year
 We will work with your schedule
 Call: Ann. —650-290-4335
 Email: aschwenderlauf@gmail.com

11th STEP Prayer

Lord, make me a channel of Thy peace;
 that where there is hatred, I may bring love;
 that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
 that where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
 that where there is error, I may bring truth;
 that where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
 that where there is despair, I may bring hope;
 that where there are shadows, I may bring light;
 that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort, than to be comforted;
 to understand, than to be understood;
 to love, than to be loved.

For it is by self forgetting, that one finds.
 It is by forgiving, that one is forgiven.
 It is by dying, that one awakens to Eternal Life.

Amen.

CORRECTIONS SERVICE
 COMMITMENT

Lake's Crossing Center

INFORMATION:
 Two meetings (with two chairs for each meeting)
 on Monday nights at 6:00 pm

REQUIRED:
 Background check for current cases
 - Two step TB test
 Orientation

CONTACT:
 Natalie M.
 775-342-8045
potter_n@rocketmail.com

Thank you for your service!

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2023

Group	October	YTD	Group	October	YTD
3rd Tradition Secular Group			Happy Hour Reno	302.50	1920.83
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	65.70	493.56	International Cartel Men's Stag		390.76
A Way Home		1475.11	Kings Beach AA Golden Group		646.75
Alano Brown Baggers		68.11	Ladies of The Evening		263.05
Alano Big Book Study		145.00	Ladies of the Lake		131.81
Alano Living Sober		120.00	McGill NV Freedom Group		85.00
Alano Jaywalkers		534.30	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE		180.91
Alano Open Heart Open Mind		375.00			
Alano Women in Recovery		32.75	Minden Language of the Heart		40.00
Alano Sunshine Group		100.00			
Amen Maintenance Meeting		300.00	Minden Saturday Night Fever		429.00
Back Room Group		474.13	Minden Stephanie Way Group		435.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night	300.00	800.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		97.36
Battle Mountain Fellowship			Minden/Gardnerville Group		201.02
Blairsden Graeagle Sisters in Recr	100.00	100.00	Mt Rose Candle Light		400.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Gro	486.86	1305.66	Mt Rose Recovery Room		1572.41
Buena Vista Group			NNIG Business Meeting	32.50	382.50
Caring & Sharing in Stead		971.52	Old Time A.A. Group		
Carson Airport AA			Out and Sober		
Carson Big Book Experience		70.00	Portola Group		
Carson Brown Baggers		60.00	Positive Acceptance Group		1255.72
Carson Early Birds		1805.67	Professionals Meeting		
Carson Happy Hour			Pyramid Way Discussion Group		160.00
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		150.00	Recien ilegados		
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		500.00	Resentments And A Coffee Pot		
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		160.00	RTC Almost Heaven	100.00	850.00
Carson Sandbaggers		1350.00	RTC Aloha Group	391.56	1437.98
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Beginners are Winners		100.00
Crazy Drunks	134.00	134.00	RTC Big Book Study		
Carson Valley Gratitude		500.00	RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting		
Cold Springs Book Study	77.94	77.94	RTC Good Morning Sobriety		
Chester Saturday Night Group	240.00	485.00	RTC How We Stay Stopped	135.00	235.00
Choices	100.00	100.00	RTC Little Rascals		150.00
Cornerstone Group		350.00	RTC Men's Trudgers	195.30	585.36
Dayton Fellowship Hall		250.00	RTC Monday Night Mens		375.00
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62		300.00	RTC New Awakenings Group	256.15	1062.37
Dayton Red Rooster		500.00	RTC Recien Llegados		
Dayton Sunday Morning		200.00	RTC Women's Just for Today		95.55
Decompression Chamber/online		1550.22	Serenity on Sundays		250.00
District 14		270.00	Silver Springs Groups		300.00
District 2		57.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS	77.63	245.65
District 22	20.00	393.75	Slide Mountain Candle Light Group		150.00
Double R at Noon		687.88	South Y Shore Lake Group		500.00
District 12		1.00	Southside Group	178.73	1426.44
Driars Positive Step Grp	155.00	155.00	Susanville Fellowship		98.00
Eye Operner		973.50	Step 1	90.00	260.00
Elko		6.80			
Fallon Fallen Women's AA Meeting			Sunnyside Group	645.50	2303.00
Fallon Grapevine Online		120.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		200.00
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch			The Next Chapter	100.00	200.00
Fireside Group		400.00			
Galena Friday Night			The Rock Group		400.20
Ground Zero		657.42	The Shop		300.00
Grupo Accion		60.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		1640.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz		110.00	Truckee Fellowship	50.21	201.46
Grupo Nueva Vida					
Grupo Latino Reno		50.00	Truckee River Men's Stag		1196.00
Incline Village Fellowship		97.43	Verdi Greener Pastures		
Jamesville God Grant Me		30.00	Virgina City Plug in the Jug		
Jamesville Women's Monday Night		89.20	Wednesday Night Beginners Me	250.00	250.00
End of the Road Group		140.00	Weekend Warriors		
Fernley Groups		120.00	Westwood Monday Night		60.00
Inclined to be Sober	100.00	100.00	Whole in the Ground Sunnyside	200.00	200.00
Grupo dia a la vez	150.00	150.00	Whole in the Soul		550.00
			Westwood AA	130.00	150.00
			Yerington Group		250.00
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		225.00
			Women's New Beginnings		417.00
			Women's New Harmony		494.50
			Young at Heart		100.00
			Total	5,064.58	46,357.58

It must never be forgotten that
the purpose of Alcoholics
Anonymous is to sober up
alcoholics. There is no
religious or spiritual
requirement for membership. No
demands are made on anyone. An
experience is offered which
members may accept or reject.
That is up to them.

Bill W.

www.idhearts.com

STEP ELEVEN CONTINUED

I considered the phrase, "self-forgetting" in the Step. The only time I ever experienced self-forgetting was when I could sort of drop out of my thinking. I wanted to stop all this thinking so that I could be more present in the moment and so God would have a chance to enter my life and heal my mind.

The first day I tried this went pretty well. I stood next to my dining room table and enjoyed the beauty of my tree. I don't know how long I was able to be free of thoughts, but I'm sure it wasn't many minutes. I did achieve a sense of peace, but no relief from my anxieties.

The next day, anticipating my Higher Power's presence and healing, I stood again in my dining room admiring the beauty of my tree. This time, a kind of joy built up in my heart. I laughed and I cried. I knew something was different. As the Big Book says, my whole attitude and outlook on life had changed.

It took a while to register what had happened. I noticed within a few days that my anxieties were gone. I found that I was no longer interested in spending time in thoughts of the future or the past. I saw that the present is all there is. Time revealed that I was restored to a sanity that I had never experienced.

Now, I could see how selfish I had been in so many different areas. My greatest desire was to make amends to my children to whom I had given my opinions too freely. Now I am supportive. I don't know what is best for anyone; everyone has their own path. My job is to listen and love. If anyone asks for guidance, I make certain that I am grounded in my Higher Power.

I had a spiritual experience that healed my mind and woke me from my illusions and distorted thinking. I had a spiritual awakening. Now, I live in the moment, rather than one day at a time. That is how I experience the Eleventh Step. My Higher Power directs my thoughts and my actions today. I choose that each moment.

My thinking is on a much higher plane; it is purpose-driven. I only think when I need to and if I want to stop thinking to enjoy the moment, I can. I am not seeking anything, since I am living what I always sought. I help teach my sponsees how to live in the moment. It seems that my soul's purpose has always been to connect to a Higher Power.

I feel more connected to others and love being around people. I still have a little ego left and it tries to take me for a ride occasionally, but it doesn't last long. I like to picture my ego as sitting in the corner of my mind and every now and then I have to throw it a bone.

My addiction to my own thoughts has been replaced by the sounds of nature and the world.

At 72 years old, I feel young and truly alive. You can catch me giggling for no reason or exclaiming quietly before a meeting starts, "I love this meeting!" A sense of joy keeps arising from within me. I only have to be truly present to be joyful and filled with love and peace.

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OCTOBER 2010

ANONYMITY on the Internet

BY: DAVE S. | CLEVELAND, OHIO

Breaking a Tradition can happen on social networking sites, but it's easily prevented

THE Traditions are of the utmost importance for the survival of AA as a whole, but they were written in an era when methods of communication were fairly limited, consequently leaving some holes for the AAs of today to fill in. I remember when I first started thinking about anonymity, the Eleventh Tradition and the internet. Turning to the AA World Service pamphlet "Understanding Anonymity," I looked for answers. The pamphlet says that websites should be considered public media, and therefore we shouldn't use our full name or images on any public site. It goes on to say that ". . . the level of anonymity in emails, online meetings, and chat rooms would be a personal decision."

At first glance, this seems pretty clear: no full names or pictures on any publicly accessible website, but chat rooms, online meetings and emails are acceptable places to break our own anonymity, if we wish to. The pamphlet is trying to set up a distinction between "private" and "public" internet usage. Unfortunately, I believe it falls well short of comprehensively defining this distinction. One could easily say that breaking anonymity on a national news organization's site is forbidden, but a break in an email to a friend is acceptable. A personal blog that is publicly searchable would also fall into the "public" category. But what about social networking sites? These widely used sites have their own security protocols, some of which are fully customizable by the individual users. They have their own levels of public and private, further complicating the issue. For instance, I can set my personal page to be viewed by my "friends" (people I've approved to view my page) only, preventing anyone else from seeing the information listed. Can I break my anonymity on this level, where only my friends can see?

Continued p.8

Wouldn't this be merely the virtual equivalent of gathering all of my friends in a room and telling them I am in AA?

One popular networking site has "groups" where likeminded people can sign up and post messages on discussion boards. Many of them are twelve-step-related. There are multiple unmoderated groups titled "Alcoholics Anonymous," one with over 9,000 members. Any member can access this group and its member list, most of whom use their full names (a requirement for one social networking site). One could argue that this is a public anonymity break because it falls under the banner of Alcoholics Anonymous. But what about the "Friends of Bill W." group that has over 12,000 members? It is public (to members of the site), but specifically states that it is not affiliated with any organization.

I think that the solution here has more to do with Tradition Six than with Tradition Eleven. Calling a group "Alcoholics Anonymous" implies affiliation, despite disclaimers. If all of these internet groups were titled something like "Friends of Bill W." or "Alcoholics in Recovery," then we would be solving two problems at once: ending affiliation with AA and allowing members to not worry about breaking their anonymity at a public level by merely joining the group. Each individual would be responsible for maintaining his or her own anonymity in these groups in discussions, but they would no longer have to worry about their anonymity being broken just by joining the group.

At the time the Traditions were published, this conversation about anonymity would have been inconceivable. As our world changes and evolves, AA, too, must change and evolve. AA members must meet new challenges head-on, inside and outside of AA.

Dave S. Suggestions

Dave S., the author of .Anonymity on the internet, compiled some tips for anonymity-protected usage of social networking sites:

- Don't join any group with. Alcoholics Anonymous. in its name, even if there is a disclaimer.
- Don't disclose that you are an AA member if you choose to join a group for people in recovery. Talk in general terms about meetings, recovery, and Steps.
- Don't post a message on someone's .wall. regarding meetings, sobriety or AA.
- Don't publish pictures from AA functions with your friends in them, unless you have their

permission. Make sure that these pictures are viewable by your friends only.

- Do- If you choose to out yourself on your profile page, make sure the page is accessible only to your friends, not to the general public.
- Do- when creating an AA-related event on the site, make sure that it is private so that invitees don't have their anonymity broken when they decide to attend. Make the guest list of an AA-related event hidden.

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Story from a local AA

Why service?

I didn't come to AA service till I was 30 years sober. I had listened to the familiar voice in the back of the room who said it was a waste of time. The reason the commitment was two years long was because it took that long to convince oneself one actually might have done something useful.

Over the years I had done a little service on the coattails of those who had made commitments. I recall going into the Salvation Army in San Francisco. One of the places I had detoxed in. And going into the psych ward at S.F. General Hospital. That was an eye-opener. I was in the merchant marine and had the perfect alibi. I was gone half the year and could not commit if I didn't know my schedule.

When I was new that didn't go very far. I recall being the greeter at the Calif. St/St James meeting in the S.F.. It was explained that whenever I was home I would help out. It was what I needed. I had the shakes for several months and my teeth were a mess. It was a great way for me to get to know everyone. And no one cared how I looked or how badly I shook.

Years later I moved to Austin NV. We had an occasional AA meeting. There was a couple there who were in recovery, but they moved on. And then I retired. My higher power often moves in mysterious ways. I had several things happen in quick succession and it ended up doing service was the next right thing to do in my sobriety. I was used to doing 12th-step calls.

My home group in S.F. would have the tele-service routed to our meeting. If we had a wet drunk two of us would go out and talk to the drunk and try and take him to meeting.

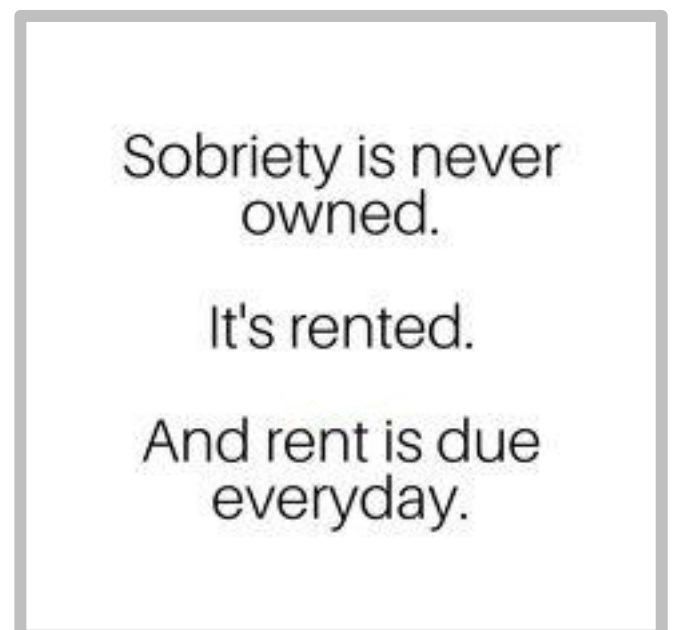
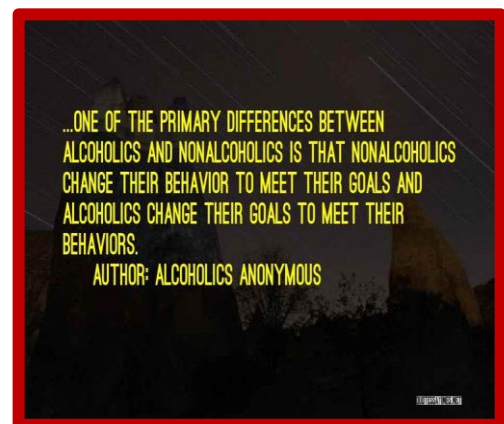
Austin would be something different. All at once I ran into my old friends Lyle and Julie at the Tonopah Fandango. I would drive down to help out my Tonopah friends run the soda concession at the NAGS. They suggested I check out the upcoming round tables. Then a cowboy from down the Reese River asked me to start a meeting. I did. Then I figured if I called it the Austin Group, I could get it listed for travelers to find. That meant I was now a GSR.

From there it just seemed right to fill in the rest of those jobs. Like keeping a few AA pamphlets at our local health clinic, and talking to the local Justice of the Peace and Sheriff letting them know AA is alive and well. Soon I had met other AA'ers and got a jail meeting going in Eureka and at the Tonopah conservation camp. And of course secretary of the Austin AA meeting.

It's tuff doing AA mostly alone in central NV. There are plenty of drunks but little recovery. It can be discouraging. There just isn't the depth of AA meetings like in Reno. I get it if you want to keep it you have to give it away. I emphasized with Bill when he lamented in early AA he had not gotten anyone sober. Then Lois noted it had kept him sober.

What I found about service was that I really liked hanging with others doing service. They seemed excited about their sobriety and that's contagious. Living in Austin was a great tonic, and still is now that I'm in Fallon. So, if you're wondering about service, or at a place where you feel your program is missing something, jump in and jump-start your program. Get a service commitment!

Frank W
Fallon





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