

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



December 9, 2023  
Aaron Z.  
Molalla, OR  
District 2  
Speaker at 7:00

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

## November 2023

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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

## Interview with an Alcoholic

Dave W. Reno NV

### **Can you please introduce yourself?**

Yes, my name is Dave W. My sobriety date is December 10th, 1970 and my Homegroup is A Way Home in Reno Nevada

### **Where did you get sober at?**

Reno, NV.

### **Briefly describe your drinking.**

I like what I have heard others say. At first, my drinking was fun, then it was fun with trouble, and then it was just trouble. My drinking lasted from about the age of 13 and ended when I was 26 years old. Those years were filled with broken cars, broken promises, and about 10+ years of broken living.

### **How did you end up getting into Alcoholics Anonymous?**

It was Labor Day 1969. I was supposed to rough in the plumbing system in a house that was being built. I got drunk instead and woke up in the hospital. I could not remember what happened that day but I knew I was in trouble. I was in bed in a private room with no clothes nor underwear so I had to stick around.

### **That got you into A.A.?**

I was escorted by my brother to the Elko County Court House on Labor Day, 1969, and the judge, a friend of my father's, sentenced me to up to one year in the alcoholic ward at the Nevada State Mental Hospital. I was 24 years old at the time and started to go to a few A.A. meetings for something to do.

### **What were your first impressions?**

In truth, I was really scared. I was in the State hospital. I had been in trouble off and on for the last few years, but nothing like that. When I was about 11 years old, I flew down to Reno with the Sheriff of Elko County to a Boy Scout camp. My next plane trip to Reno was to the state hospital with the same sheriff. That was my introduction to A.A. or introduction to a different way of life, which I was not interested in at all.

### **When did you become interested in A.A.?**

I started my last drunk in 1970, the Labor Day weekend, and I was pretty much drunk every day after that till December 9th of that year.

# A A's

## Recovery Step Twelve:

“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”

# Three

## Unity

### Tradition Twelve:

“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

# Legacies

## Service Concept Twelve:

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

**Concept XII** The Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other A.A. entities as well.

Let us, then, consider these principles one by one:

**Warranty One:** “The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power.”

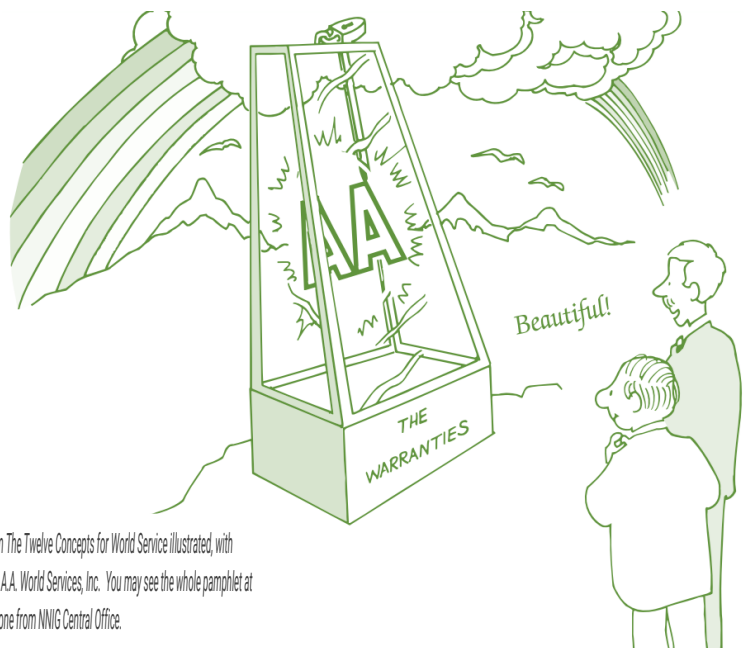
**Warranty Two:** “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.”

**Warranty Three:** “None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.”

**Warranty Four:** “That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity.”

**Warranty Five:** “That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.”

**Warranty Six:** “That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”



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](http://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 [nnigbracer@gmail.com](mailto:nnigbracer@gmail.com). Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the month.**

# 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



**December 9, 2023**  
**Speaker – Aaron Z. Molalla, 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**

**March 9, 2024**  
**Mike S. Riverside CA**  
**Host Group – Central Office**

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




**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**

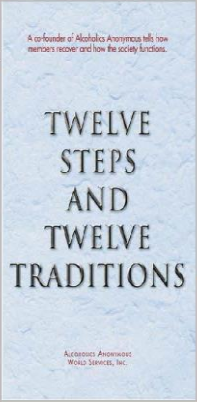
Ever wonder what those 12 traditions are all about?  
 Well, have we got an event for you!




**nnig PRESENTS**  
**TRADITIONS WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 17, 2024**

**ALANO CLUB 12-3 PM**  
**4 TRADITIONS PER HOUR**  
**10 MINUTES EACH**  
**10-MINUTE BREAK**  
**TOP OF EACH HOUR**  
**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**  
**PLEASE RSVP**  
**CENTRAL OFFICE**  
**775-355-1151**

*The steps are to the alcoholic what the traditions are to the fellowship.*



# OTHER AREA EVENTS



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

**American Legion Doby Reid Post 30**  
 730 4<sup>th</sup> 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 H.)  
 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 DEC 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 - Jensen Hall  
 Questions? Call Jay (530)261-7211 or Joelle (530)816-0692


**Today is the tomorrow you were worried about yesterday, so live in the now.**

**Become Willing**

**Central office report from Ronda H. Dec. 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](mailto:officemanager@nnig.org) to be added to this once-a-month email.  
 Volunteer Hours: 149 Hours  
 Calls into Central Office: 185

- Calls for AA help - 6
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 2
- Meeting information - 45
- Retail / merchandise - 15
- Other 12-step programs - 0
- Events - 20
- New to AA/ Talked with - 1
- Business/Central office- 96
- **Visitors - 281 -Dogs- 1**
- **Texts - 5**

*Ronda H.*  
*Central Office Manager*




## November 2023

*Sean L.*  
 32 Years  
*Rich M.*  
 37 Years

Previous Birthdays  
October Birthdays  
 Sharon F. 39 Years  
 Dave S. 40 Years  
 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 33 Years  
March 2023  
 Kent L. 41 Years  
 Kim D. 46 Years  
 December 2022  
 Sean S. - 32 Years



Another Happy Customer at the Central Office

**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**

**Open Heart  
 Open Mind  
 Sunday 3:30 PM  
 1640 Prater Way  
 Sparks NV**

**Sisters in  
 Recovery  
 Sunday 3:30PM  
 8989 CA-89  
 Graeagle, CA**

**BOOK OF  
 THE MONTH  
 ONLY \$3.00**

**PAMPHLET  
 OF  
 THE  
 MONTH  
 \$.40**



**Our Great Responsibility**  
 A SELECTION OF  
 BILL W.'S  
 GENERAL SERVICE  
 CONFERENCE TALKS  
 1951-1970



**Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.**

**Serenity Seekers,  
 Women's  
 4:00 PM  
 506 West 4<sup>th</sup>  
 St  
 Winnemucca  
 NV**

**WOMEN'S DOWN &  
 DIRTY  
 WEDNESDAY 6:45 PM  
 1800 E WILLIAMS  
 ST#5 CARSON CITY  
 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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** 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

## AA Area 42 Translation & Interpretation Committee



### 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 530 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



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](mailto:aschwenderlauf@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:potter_n@rocketmail.com)

Thank you for your service!

## A 12th STEP Prayer

Dear God,

*Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that "faith without works is dead."  
And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from  
drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this  
message to other alcoholics! Provide me with the guidance and wisdom to talk with another  
alcoholic because I can help when no one else can. Help me secure his confidence and  
remember he is ill.*

## NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2023

Group	November	YTD	Group	November	YTD
3rd Tradition Secular Group			Happy Hour Reno		1920.83
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	30.63	524.19	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	225.13	789.43	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE	25.00	205.91
Alano Open Heart Open Mind	97.00	472.00			
Alano Women in Recovery		32.75	Minden Language of the Heart		40.00
Alano Sunshine Group	208.00	308.00			
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		800.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		97.36
Battle Mountain Fellowship			Minden/Gardnerville Group		201.02
Blairsden Graeagle Sisters in Recovery		100.00	Mt Rose Candle Light		400.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		1305.66	Mt Rose Recovery Room	200.40	1772.81
Buena Vista Group	300.00	300.00	NNIG Business Meeting	32.00	414.50
Caring & Sharing in Stead		971.52	Old Time A.A. Group		
Carson Airport AA			Out and Sober		
Carson Big Book Experience	50.00	120.00	Portola Group		
Carson Brown Baggers	111.00	171.00	Positive Acceptance Group		1255.72
Carson Early Birds		1805.67	Professionals Meeting		
Carson Happy Hour			Pyramid Way Discussion Group	75.00	235.00
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		150.00	Recien llegados		
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	950.00
Carson Sandbaggers		1350.00	RTC Aloha Group		1437.98
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Beginners are Winners		100.00
Crazy Drunks		134.00	RTC Not a Glum Lot	15.00	15.00
Carson Valley Gratitude		500.00	RTC Don't Trip Music Meeting		
Cold Springs Book Study		77.94	RTC Good Morning Sobriety		
Chester Saturday Night Group		485.00	RTC How We Stay Stopped		235.00
Choices		100.00	RTC Little Rascals		150.00
Cornerstone Group		350.00	RTC Men's Trudgers		585.36
Dayton Fellowship Hall		250.00	RTC Monday Night Mens		375.00
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62		300.00	RTC New Awakenings Group		1062.37
Dayton Red Rooster	300.00	800.00	RTC Recien Llegados		
Dayton Sunday Morning		200.00	RTC Women's Just for Today		95.55
Decompression Chamber/online	115.67	1665.89	Serenity on Sundays		250.00
District 14	50.00	620.00	Silver Springs Groups		300.00
District 2	7.00	64.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		245.65
District 22	20.00	313.75	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		1426.44
Driars Positive Step Grp		155.00	Susanville Fellowship		98.00
Eye Operner		973.50	Step 1		260.00
Elko		6.80			
Fallon Fallen Women's AA Meeting			Sunnyside Group		2303.00
Fallon Grapevine Online		120.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		200.00
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch			The Next Chapter		200.00
Fireside Group		400.00			
Galena Friday Night			The Rock Group		400.20
Ground Zero		657.42	The Shop	314.00	614.00
Grupo Accion		60.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		1640.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz	20.00	130.00	Truckee Fellowship		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	Virginia City Plug in the Jug		
Jamesville Women's Monday Night		89.20	Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		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	Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		200.00
Grupo dia a la vez		150.00	Whole in the Soul	0.50	550.50
			Westwood AA		150.00
			Yerington Group		250.00
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	40.00	265.00
			Women's New Beginnings	350.00	767.00
			Women's New Harmony		494.50
			Young at Heart		100.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2,691.33</b>	<b>49,273.91</b>

...ONE OF THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALCOHOLICS AND NONALCOHOLICS IS THAT NONALCOHOLICS CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR TO MEET THEIR GOALS AND ALCOHOLICS CHANGE THEIR GOALS TO MEET THEIR BEHAVIORS.

AUTHOR: ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

## STEP TWELVE FREQUENT CONTACT

BY: DAVID L. | NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA

Some favorite passages in the Big Book help a father get through the darkest days of his life.

"Mister L., are you sitting down?" the voice said. Never a good question. At a little over seven years sober, I was on a call from the hospital telling me that my 8-year-old daughter had had a stroke.

At the time, I was walking with forearm crutches and I didn't drive, so I arranged for a ride to the hospital as quickly as possible. It was about an hour's drive away, but I was able to get there and see my daughter.

I was able to visit every other hour so that I wouldn't be in the room at the same time as my ex-wife. Since I had no transportation and wanted to be with my daughter every moment possible, I was not able to get to any AA meetings.

For the next two weeks and two days, I camped out at the hospital. My daughter fell into a coma after a second stroke. Much praying, daily phone conversations with my sponsor, and most importantly, continuous work with sponsees helped me immensely through this time.

But then, on December 21, my daughter passed away. I don't know whether I wanted to drink or not but I sure did want to stop the pain. Luckily, a passage in the Big Book kept ringing in my head: "Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail."

I had been working with a few sponsees who came by the hospital, but now I felt I needed more. So I went to an AA meeting that night and cried inconsolably and a stranger held my hand through the whole meeting.

The next night I went to another meeting, but this time a friend who had gone back to drinking approached me in tears. "I want to stop drinking but I can't," he said. "Will you help me?" I spent the next two hours with him and never mentioned my daughter until we were nearly done. "How's your little girl?" he asked. He hadn't heard that she had passed. I told him that his problem was my main concern right then. Where had those words come from? They were not mine.

My daughter's funeral was on December 24. I wept as we left her graveside. I got in the car with my parents to head home. Mom said, "You shouldn't be alone; why don't you come home with us?" She was half right. I could hear Bill W.'s words from our book:

"Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives."

Since it was Christmas Eve, I knew there was an alkathon going on across town, so I had my folks drop me off there. I shared, which helped me some, but the line "It works when other activities fail" kept echoing in my head.

Sometime during the night, a drunk came into the alkathon smelling of stale booze and vomit. I fixed him a sandwich and a coffee and we sat and talked and attended a few meetings together. I don't know if I helped him at all, but neither of us drank that night.

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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## Expectations of AA

BY: ANONYMOUS | MANILA

**In a moment of crisis, he learned that sobriety doesn't depend on personalities.**

When I was a few years sober in AA, I received a telephone call early one morning in New York from the West Coast, telling me that my sister had had a brain aneurysm and was in a coma. I flew out the next morning and found that she had come out of the coma and her husband and grown children were there in the hospital visiting her. They were very much relieved. However, that night she suffered a setback and went into a coma again. After having their hopes raised, her family went into a state of depression and shock. The tension among them was palpable and some were trying to cope with it by having a few drinks. After a couple of days of living with this tension myself, I decided I better get to an AA meeting as a safeguard against picking up a drink.

At the meeting, I mentioned the situation with my sister. Those around the table seemed solemn while I spoke but when the meeting closed they noisily sought out their friends.

I just stood there expecting I don't know what, but feeling very isolated. A young woman came over and said she'd say a prayer for my sister. I thanked her and left the hall.

A couple of days later my sister died. The wake and funeral were emotionally draining and I knew I needed another meeting so I went back to the same AA group since it was the only one convenient to where I was staying. I told them my sister had died. There were the same brief solemn looks, the same loud seeking out of friends at the end of the meeting, and the same feeling of isolation in myself. I left the hall this time nurturing a terrific resentment.

It wasn't until some weeks later that I realized that my attending these meetings had been a great success. I went to them as insurance so that I wouldn't pick up a drink during an extremely tense time. And it worked--I didn't pick up a drink. I realized too that if I had been in my home group--or in most other AA groups for that matter--there no doubt would have been a lot more concern shown. This group didn't respond that way, but it also dawned on me that I had no right to demand that they do. In fact I had no right to demand anything of them. The important thing is that they were *there*; they had a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous--and I had a place to go to remind myself that I am an alcoholic and that I can't drink no matter what is happening in my life. I didn't drink and so those meetings worked for me very well.

The experience brought out for me some very basic AA: I don't go to Alcoholics Anonymous for my social life (although I have a lot of good friends in AA) or simply to feel good. Also, I have no right to demand that other AAs act in a way I want them to. My primary reason for going to AA is to stay sober and to grow in sobriety. The bottom line is that sobriety is basic in my life and for my life, and maintaining it on a daily basis is much too important for me to have it depend on the whims, responses, or personalities of others. As the Twelfth Tradition clearly states: "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." Principles before personalities: Keeping that priority straight, I hope I'll stay sober on a daily basis, and everything else will assume its proper place in my life.

*Dave W. Continued from page 1*

I was at the point of losing my job and everything that I had that I had been so lucky to get before my drinking got totally out of hand again. When I was in the state hospital, I heard about a job with the trucking company, Delta Truck Lines and I asked my brother-in-law if he cared if I made out an application since he wasn't going to apply. I was at the state hospital and I had to make an appointment, so I called up Delta Truck Lines. I asked if I could speak to Mr. Dwyer, he was the terminal manager. I said I heard you had a job available for a billing clerk, and I wondered if I could make an application. He told me where they were located. He said to come to the terminal and fill out an application. I said, "there's one thing you ought to know, Mr. Dwyer, I'm a patient in the state hospital and I'm in here for Alcoholism." I can't believe what he said. "Well, come on down and I'll talk to you".

When I was about 10 years sober I had the most incredible thing happen in my life. That was Shaun D. and my life was to change forever. For fun Shaun and I were going to see a spiritual medium but had to cancel so I asked her if she would like to go to a dinner and show at Tahoe Harrahs to see Sammy Davis Jr. She agreed so I picked her up at 5 pm on Saturday. We were driving through Washoe Valley just talking and she said "You haven't been sober very long and like it very well." My answer was that I'd been sober 10 years and I asked her how long she'd been sober, her answer was 30 days. I wanted to turn my car around and go back home. I really didn't want to date a newcomer. We did go to the show and another one that night in Reno. I am forever grateful that we were never apart for 33 years. Shaun died in the spring of 2014. Shaun was the most unique person I have ever known...everyone who knew her loved her. Because of Shaun, I feel I might be one of the luckiest people I know. A part of my heart died when Shawn W. passed on.

***Going back to when you thought you would lose your job, what made you go back to A.A.?***

No, I had been going off and on. I went to A.A. after I got out of the hospital about once or twice a month. What I can say the difference was On December 10th, I quit drinking for the last time. I started going to meetings every day and did for years. That alone was huge. Then I got really active in the program for the 1st 8-10 years. I was running the Reno Rebels Group for a couple of years in different positions. Then I was elected Reno committeeman with A.A.

That was when I was sober for about six years and I was running the Driars Club and I was Reno Committeeman.

Continued on page 9



The next job was to go to New York as a representative, that was my next duty. As the days went by, I thought, I can't do it, can't do it. I felt so phony because inside I was just not well. So I quit the Reno committeeman position and I quit running the Driars Club. Started more aggressively, really working on myself. I love the Driars Club and I loved being an area committee man. I would like to keep doing it, but I was just too phony. When I finally started doing my 4th step, I didn't think I'd be able to do it. Then one night, I just felt right. And the first thing I wrote was I looked phony. I act phony, and I am phony. And that's where I was at that time.

***So you weren't following the suggestions very well, except for not drinking, right?***

Well, the other thing too, the night I quit drinking, there was a guy across the street. I mean, all this is just accidental. Except God does these things. There was a guy across the street that I knew from the state hospital. I didn't like him very well, but that was fair because he didn't like me. I asked him if he would help me and he was driving me around in my car and I was crying and I said, Johnny, I'm going to do things right this time. I said, will you be my sponsor? He said "Wiggins. I wouldn't sponsor a losing \*\*\* \*\* \* \*\*\*\*\* like you." So I didn't have a sponsor for about 15 years. That's not good. That's just how it was. I would never recommend it to anyone. There are too many things you need sponsorship on, but I didn't have it so I had to do with what I had.

***So now you're a firm believer in sponsorship, so you do have a sponsor and you do sponsor.***

I've had two sponsors. The first one was Kenny Carlisle. He was an old timer and I called him up one night. I said Kenny, "I've been thinking and I wondered if you would be my sponsor." He was living in Northern California at the time. He said "Wiggins, I thought I was your sponsor." So that was like having your bases covered without even knowing it. And when he passed away I didn't wait 15 years. A few days later I asked Pat D. and Pat D. is still my sponsor.

***What changes have you seen in A.A. in the Reno area in the last 50-plus years?***

It's a tough one for me to answer because in so many ways A.A. is the same. I mean it's got the same responsibilities and yet of course we've changed. One thing is the perception of people around the world about A.A. In 1970 it was not nearly as big an organization as it is now. And of course, in 1970, we thought we were the most up-to-date bunch. Well, you're up to date till you become old. 52 1/2 years later

maybe more than anything as my thoughts and feelings are still way back, because that's when I got feeling good and I feel good today. But maybe with an old attitude which isn't bad.

***So elder statesmen or bleeding Deacon.***

Elder statesman. In fact, I stay out of most controversies or anything now. If I get involved. I get pissed off. And I did years of that when I was going to Tonopah and all those things that get in the middle of any problem. At that level, they're all kind of weird. Egos are still too strong at that time.

***What do you like to tell newcomers when you see newcomers today?***

Keep coming back. You might make it. The old-timers would tell me in the beginning, keep coming back, Dave, you might make it. That was an old timer, Pollock John. Another one, Kenny C. liked to say, "Dave, you'll never make it, but you might not drink again." I don't know what they meant, but those little sayings have been in my mind for 50-plus years, and it was those old Timers that just captured me. I just hung around the Driars Club a lot and played cards. It was nice being a part of something that I loved.

***Now, do you have any final thoughts?***

I was trying to think what it is about A.A. that I really like? Well, that's too broad of a question for me. So I would have to say it's the people. I say this at meetings all the time. 30 years ago, 35 years ago, I couldn't have said I love you. I couldn't have said it to you individually or in a room as a group of people. I joke about it, but it's really the truth. I've been like the Fonz, I couldn't have said it. Now it's easy to say that I love you. Thank you for my sobriety. Because I owe it all to you A.A.

*The interview took place on July 6, 2023*

*If you stay in the middle of the program, it's hard to fall off the edge.*



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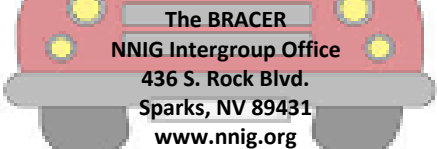
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