

# THE BRACER



## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

### NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



July 13  
Hearthier S.  
Reno NV.  
Kiss Group  
Speaker at 7:00

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

### July 2024

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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**

I am an alcoholic my name is Frank. I know people usually say I'm Frank I'm an alcoholic but saying it the other way may have saved my life. When I was new I did everything wrong, or as I like to say I did enough right to keep coming back. Back then I was working on tugboats on S.F. Bay. I was on fire for getting someone sober or getting someone into the union, both were a passion.

A new tugboat came into the bay and one of my union brothers and I were following it from the shore. We were going to invite them to sign pledge cards to join the union. They tied up just north of Port Costa at a busted dock no longer in use. We invited ourselves on board. The discussion was heated and voices were raised. Clearly they were not interested in joining up. We were clear it was in their best interest. I recall standing up, and then going down.

The next thing I remember was sitting out on the Benicia town dock. It had been daylight but now it was dark and I was on the other side of the Carquinez Straight. I'm sitting there and have no idea how I got there. I took stock of myself and could see some blood and feeling around realized I had a big gash on the back of my head, and a small one on my chin. At that time this guy was walking toward me as if he knew me and said we needed to go to the hospital to get stitched up. I concurred. I knew I looked like a mess, head wounds bleed all over the place. I could feel the open wound but didn't think my skull was cracked.

We walked to his car, and I still can't figure out who this guy is, but off we went. As we drove out of Benicia, back over the river, to the hospital in Martinez we passed a bar. Looking at him I said, hey, let's stop in for a couple of horns. To my thinking, the bar would close at 0200 and the emergency room would be open all night long. My running mate gave me the oddest look, like I had said something inappropriate. It got me to thinking, and then it came to me, and I said to him, I'm an alcoholic my name is Frank. he nearly swerved off the road.

He knew how bad a shape I was in, but my newly sober, 6-month brain did not, and at that moment a drink sounded pretty good. and then it didn't. I remembered...I don't drink anymore..... I was going to those meetings and I was an alcoholic. That was when my mind started to come back. it started with, I'm an alcoholic my name is Frank.

Continue p. 7

A A's

## Recovery Step Seven:

“Humbly ask Him to  
remove our  
shortcomings.”

Three

## Unity Tradition Seven:

“Every A.A. group ought to  
be fully self-supporting,  
declining outside  
contributions.”

Legacies

## Service Concept Seven:

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

### Concept 7

This Concept attempts to clarify the relationship and “balance of powers” between the Conference and the General Service Board. “This . . . may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object.” On the one hand, “the board is invested with complete legal power over A.A.’s funds and services; on the other hand the Conference is clothed with such great influence and financial power it could overcome the legal rights of the board.

“Thus, the practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members”; and finally from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups. “Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need.”

The Conference “recommends” — though its recommendations have the force of directives to the board. The board executes these recommendations.



The board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation — but in actual practice, it never has done so. As Bill tactfully puts it, the trustees “simply refrain from using their legal right to say ‘no’ when it would be much wiser, all things considered, to say ‘yes.’

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 [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



**June 8, 2024**  
**Ron H. Portland, OR.**  
Host Group - Jay Walkers

**July 13, 2024**  
**Heather S. Reno, NV**  
Host Group- KISS Group

**August 10, 2024**  
**Deanna S. Reno, NV**  
Host Group- Minden/Garnerville

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

**NNIG 2024**  
**Gratitude Dinner**

**Saturday**  
**November 9, 2024**

**Speaker: Todd J.**  
Idyllwild, CA

Seated Dinner \$65

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>TICKETS</b><br>NNIG Central Office<br>436 South Rock Blvd<br>Sparks, NV | Doors Open 5pm<br>Dinner 6pm<br>Speaker 7pm |
|--|---|

**Reno Ballroom**  
401 University Way, Reno, NV 89501

SUN., JULY 21 @ 10:30 AM  
DAYTON STATE PARK

**THE RED ROOSTER**

Speakers:  
Ken & Teri Z.,  
Carson City

presents  
**DAYTON VALLEY**  
**ANNUAL PICNIC**

- Bring side dish or dessert
- \$5 parking
- Hot dogs & burgers provided
- 50/50 raffle
- Live entertainment
- Bring chairs or blankets

Questions: Jessica # 775-450-0629 (text preferred)

# OTHER AREA EVENTS



Camp Richardson "Eagle's Nest"  
South Lake Tahoe, CA  
July 11-14, 2024

Online Registration Open  
[serenityinthesierras2024.eventbrite.com](https://serenityinthesierras2024.eventbrite.com)

SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE



If you have any questions  
Call: Joel B. (775)544-5115 or Amber V. (775)500-1163  
Email: [serenityinthesierras@gmail.com](mailto:serenityinthesierras@gmail.com)

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
**NAGSC WORKSHOP**  
*IN COOPERATION WITH ANIG*  
SPEAKERS ON:  
TREATMENT & BRIDGING THE GAP  
CORRECTIONS  
AA HOTLINE

**AUG 10TH**  
**SATURDAY**  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Susanville Fellowship**  
*45 S. Weatherlow*

**TACOS FROM**  
**COURTHOUSE CAFE**  
BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE

**Lake Tahoe Fall Festival**  
**49th Annual AA Convention on Lake**  
**Tahoe's South Shore**  
**Golf Tournament**

Friday, October 4th, 2024  
10 am Tee Off  
Lake Tahoe Golf Course  
2500 Emerald Bay Road

4 Man Scramble  
We will pair two, 2 man scramble teams together unless you have 4.  
Singles may register and will be blind grouped to 4 man teams.

No handicaps, all for fun!  
Awards: First Place Team, Longest Drive, Closest to pin!  
Fun!  
Fellowship!

Must Pre-Register : <https://www.laketahoe-aa-fallfestival.com/>

Any questions, please email Ed B [edwardboyle@yahoo.com](mailto:edwardboyle@yahoo.com)




**Central office report from Ronda H. May 2024**


The book of the month is "As Bill See's It" \$2OFF Get yours while supplies last! Pamphlet is "Frequently Asked Questions about AA." \$0.40. 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: 107 Hours  
Calls into Central Office: 110

- Calls for AA help -11
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 1
- Meeting information - 28
- Retail / merchandise - 17
- Other 12-step programs - 2
- Events – 8
- New to AA/ Talked with - 4
- Business/Central office- 39
- **Visitors – 236 -Dogs- 3**
- **Texts - 5**

*Ronda H.  
Central Office Manager*





## June 2024

**Paul E. 33 years**  
**Rule L. 42 Years**

Previous Birthdays

May  
Donn T. 34 Years

April  
Ron T. 13 Years

March  
Kim D. 47 Years  
Kent L. 42 Years

February 2024  
Jack W. 39 Years

December 2023  
Sean S. 34 Years  
Mark U. 10 Years  
Cindy 35 Years


November 2023  
Sean L. 32 Years  
Rich H. 37 Years

October 2023  
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

Believe more deeply. Hold your face up to the Light, even though for the moment you do not see.



**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**

**Five N Live**  
**Saturday 5:15 PM**  
**Alano Club**  
**680 River St.**  
**Elko, NV**



**After-Shifters**  
**Alano Club**  
**180 E William**  
**St.#5**  
**Carson City, NV**



**As Bill SEE's IT**  
**\$2 OFF**

*Bill Sees It As Bill Sees It*

**As**

**Bill Sees It**

**THE A.A. WAY OF LIFE**  
(selected writings of A.A.'s co-founder)

*Bill Sees It As Bill Sees It*

**Brown Baggers**  
**Discussion**  
**1036 N Main St.**  
**Alturas, CA**



**SATURDAY NIGHT**  
**happy**  
**FEVER**  
**1631 ESERALDA**  
**PL**  
**GARDNERVILLE 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> Thursday of each month, 6:30 Central Office  
**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

El servicio nos mantiene sobrios  
El service 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  
'squirrely' 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)*

Help is needed!

The A.A. 12-Step Call List has been  
recently updated and the list was  
drastically reduced.

This service is a vital part of A.A.  
There are also shifts that need to be filled  
on the answering service.

All areas in Northern Area 42 are needed.

775-355-1151

Please call the Central Office to be added to the list.  
One year of sobriety is requested.



When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want  
the hand of A.A. to always be there and for that I am  
responsible.

## Seven Prayer

My Creator, I am now willing that You should have all of me, good and bad.  
I pray that You now remove from me every single  
defect of character which stand in the way of my usefulness to You and my  
fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here to  
do Your bidding. Amen



## NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2024

| Group                                      | June    | YTD     | Group                             | June   | YTD     |
|--|---------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| 4th Dimension- ON-LINE                     |         | 183.80  | A Vision for You                  |        | 175.00  |
| A Way Home                                 |         | 641.27  | Happy Hour Reno                   |        | 475.00  |
| Alano Big Book Study                       |         |         | Kindred Spirits                   |        | 250.00  |
| Alano Brown Baggers                        |         | 26.10   | Kings Beach AA Golden Group       | 293.09 | 293.09  |
| Alano C ST. Discussion                     |         | 65.00   | Ladies of The Evening             |        |         |
| Alano Jaywalkers                           |         | 491.67  | Ladies of the Lake                |        |         |
| Alano Living Sober                         |         |         | Lone Pine Group                   |        | 45.00   |
| Alano Open Heart Open Mind                 |         | 50.00   | McGill NV Freedom Group           |        |         |
| Alano Sunshine Group                       |         | 400.00  | Mid-Day Group ON-LINE             |        | 70.00   |
| Alano Women in Recovery                    |         |         | Minden Language of the Heart      |        |         |
| Back Room Group                            |         | 167.87  | Minden Saturday Night Fever       |        | 256.34  |
| Back to Basics Saturday Night              | 300.00  | 771.00  | Minden Stephanie Way Group        |        | 448.00  |
| Beginners are Winners On-Line Group        |         | 589.50  | Minden Wednesday Night Live       |        | 46.78   |
| Bishop High Sirra Group                    |         | 103.65  | Minden/Gardnerville Group         |        | 94.21   |
| Blairsdan Graeagle Sisters in Recovery     |         |         | Mt Rose Men's Group               | 30.00  | 30.00   |
| Blue Room Group                            |         | 61.88   | Mt Rose Candle Light              |        | 150.00  |
| Caring & Sharing in Stead                  |         | 561.21  | Mt Rose Recovery Room             | 246.53 | 1105.13 |
| Carson Alano Club                          |         | 211.00  | NNIG Business Meeting             | 31.00  | 216.50  |
| Carson Big Book Experience                 |         |         | Old Time AA Group                 |        | 68.42   |
| Carson Brown Baggers                       |         | 303.00  | Portola Group                     |        | 100.00  |
| Carson City Un Dia a La Vez                |         | 293.10  | Positive Acceptance Group         |        | 547.16  |
| Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting           |         | 1180.00 | Pyramid Way Discussion Group      |        |         |
| Carson Happy, Joyous and Free              |         | 439.25  | RTC Almost Heaven                 | 100.00 | 600.00  |
| Carson Jay-Walkers Men's                   |         | 500.00  | RTC Aloha Group                   |        | 1292.97 |
| Carson Men's NO BS Stag                    | 90.00   | 205.00  | RTC Beginners are Winners         | 978.00 | 1946.00 |
| Carson Sandbaggers                         | 100.00  | 400.00  | RTC How We Stay Stopped           |        | 110.00  |
| Carson Sisters in Sobriety                 |         | 225.60  | RTC Little Rascals                |        | 50.00   |
| Chester Fellowship                         |         |         | RTC Men's Trudgers                |        | 388.30  |
| Chester Saturday Night Group               |         |         | RTC Monday Night Mens             | 300.00 | 600.00  |
| Chester Wednesday Women's Serenity Choices |         | 100.00  | RTC New Awakenings Group          |        | 498.42  |
| Cold Springs Book Study                    |         |         | RTC Not a Glum Lot                |        |         |
| Cornerstone Group                          |         |         | RTC Women's Just for Today        |        | 242.60  |
| Crazy Drunks                               |         |         | Serenity in the Sierras Campout   |        | 500.00  |
| Dayton Fellowship Hall                     |         |         | Serenity on Sundays               |        |         |
| Dayton Friday Night Rule 62                |         |         | Silver Springs Groups             |        |         |
| Dayton Red Rooster                         |         | 767.60  | Sisters in Sobriety               |        | 32.75   |
| Dayton Sunday Morning                      | 360.00  | 360.00  | Sisters of Sobriety SOS           |        | 41.35   |
| Decompression Chamber/online               | 235.03  | 617.52  | Slide Mountain Serenity           | 750.55 | 750.55  |
| District 12                                |         |         | South Y Shore Lake Group          |        | 180.00  |
| District 14                                |         | 250.00  | Southside Group                   | 126.05 | 956.00  |
| District 2                                 | 13.00   | 51.00   | Step 1                            |        | 160.00  |
| District 22                                | 303.00  | 625.35  | Sunnyside Group                   |        | 1240.00 |
| District 6                                 |         |         | Susanville Fellowship             |        | 100.00  |
| Double R at Noon                           |         |         | Tahoe City Fellowship             |        | 100.00  |
| Driars Knuckleheads                        |         |         | The Next Chapter                  |        | 100.00  |
| Elko                                       |         |         | The Rock Group                    |        | 297.59  |
| End of the Road Group                      |         |         | The Shop                          |        |         |
| Eye-Opener                                 | 1597.00 | 1597.00 | Truckee Dawn Patrol               |        |         |
| Fallon Saturday Grapevine                  |         | 100.00  | Truckee Fellowship                |        |         |
| Fallon Silver Lining                       |         | 31.50   | Truckee River Men's Stag          | 500.00 | 1100.00 |
| Fernley Kiss                               |         |         | Verdi Greener Pastures            |        | 200.00  |
| Fireside Group                             | 488.56  | 1318.35 | Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting |        |         |
| First Responders                           |         | 130.00  | Weekend Warriors                  |        | 15.63   |
| Galena Friday Night                        |         | 50.00   | Westwood AA                       |        |         |
| Greenville Group                           |         | 100.00  | Westwood Back to Basics           |        | 107.08  |
| Ground Zero                                |         | 329.40  | Westwood Monday Night             |        |         |
| Grupo Latino Reno                          |         |         | Whole in the Ground               |        | 350.00  |
| Grupo Accion                               |         | 50.00   | Whole in the Soul                 |        |         |
| Grupo La Nueva Luz                         | 60.00   | 135.00  | Winnemucca Serenity Seekers       | 50.00  | 280.00  |
| Grupo Solo Por Hoy                         | 40.00   | 52.00   | Women's AA Literature             |        | 50.98   |
| Grupo Volver A Empezar                     |         | 20.00   | Women's New Beginnings            | 500.00 | 1265.50 |
| Incline Village Fellowship                 |         | 96.75   | Women's New Harmony               |        | 35.00   |
| Inclined to be Sober                       |         |         | Yerington Group                   |        | 200.00  |
| Jamesville God Grant Me                    |         |         | Young at Heart                    | 121.00 | 221.00  |
| Jamesville Women's Monday Night            |         |         |                                   |        |         |

**Total      7612.81    33,033.72**

## Brewing a Resentment

**BY: WARREN J. | COMSTOCK PARK,  
MICHIGAN**

*To do his 90 in 90, a newcomer starts a meeting at a church.  
But why wasn't the priest providing more coffee?*

I got sober while I was working on an island four days a week. I kept hearing about 90 meetings in 90 days. Problem was, it was winter and there were no AA meetings on the island. On the mainland, I was able to go to a meeting on Thursday night, three meetings on Friday, a meeting on Saturday and two on Sunday. I even thought of moving to a place where I could go to an AA meeting every day.

After talking to my sponsor about my problem, we decided to contact the church on the island where they had AA meetings in the summer and ask if I could start a winter meeting on Wednesday nights. The priest at the church told me that I could use the church basement, but on some nights I might have to take the meeting across the street to the church's rectory if the church needed its meeting rooms. So I started the meeting and sat in the church basement every Wednesday for an hour and read the Big Book. In early sobriety, I was alright until the fog in my head started to lift, and this sure seemed to help my thinking problem.

I remember the first time I was told I had to move the meeting over to the rectory because the room was needed by the church. The priest met me at the door and gave me a cup of coffee, and across the street I went. This situation worked fine for a while. Then one night, I was having dinner with a friend, and I asked him to come to the AA meeting that night. When I left his house, he said he might be able to make it, but he wasn't sure. I arrived at the church and the priest met me at the door with a cup of coffee and across the street I went. So I sat at the kitchen table there with one cup of coffee, wondering whether my friend would show up. What would I do if he arrived and I had no coffee to offer him?

This is where my resentment started against the priest, even though my friend never showed up that night. After that night, every time the priest asked me to move the meeting over to the rectory, my resentment grew. What would I do if someone showed up and I had no coffee to offer? I talked to my sponsor, and we were not coming up with the answer. I tried to find another place to move the meeting to, but that never worked out.

Then one Wednesday night I was on my way to the meeting, again thinking about a person I knew who I really thought would be coming to the meeting. Sure enough, when I got to the church, there was the priest with a cup of coffee in his hand.

After the meeting I went back to my apartment, not knowing what to do about this coffee situation. Then I had a thought. I checked every room and even looked out the window to make sure no one was looking. I got down on my knees and told God I didn't know what to do. That was the first time I ever got on my knees to pray. Afterward I got into bed and slept through the entire night. And wouldn't you know it? I woke up in the morning with the answer: Buy a coffeepot! Right away, my resentment was gone. I had just gotten my first lesson on Tradition Seven.



If you knew me  
in my  
drinking days,  
I am sorry.  
Please allow me  
to re-introduce  
myself.

## TO CATCH A THIEF

BY: P.N. | TORONTO, ONTARIO

A group shows how they deal with missing money—lovingly  
*TRADITION SEVEN: Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.*

Over the past 22 years that I've been a member of my home group, there have been several occurrences where money has disappeared—or was stolen, if you prefer. Three or four times the group treasurer, short of funds, had “borrowed” group money to buy cigarettes or coffee or something, with the intention of paying the money back at the end of the week. Over time, the amount owed and the accompanying guilt at not being able to pay the money back created a situation where the person felt so badly that they had to talk to someone, usually their sponsor or the group responsibility chair. It would then be brought to the attention of some of the group members. Since the treasurer couldn't pay back the money, it was suggested that the person use their weekly Seventh Tradition contribution to repay the funds. We let them tell us when the money had been repaid. None of them drank.

In another situation the treasurer took the funds to pay his rent, which emptied the group bank account and dissolved our prudent reserve. When this information became public at our monthly responsibility meeting, some members of the group suggested that the person be forced to publicly apologize at our Open Speaker Meeting. After much discussion, a more seasoned member suggested that since the members of the group had elected the treasurer, that we were responsible. We had elected the treasurer.

That completely changed the tone of the discussion. We, the members of the group, had to be responsible. The other point brought up by this future delegate was the question of what was more important, a member's sobriety or money which could be replaced. That former treasurer is no longer a member of the group, but he didn't drink and is still sober. The group members dug into their pockets and replaced the money.

In another situation, contributions were not sufficient to meet the group's financial obligations. No money was stolen. It was summertime and the money collected in the Seventh Tradition was insufficient to meet our expenses. The treasurer at the time felt that somehow it was his fault, so he started to pay the group bills from his own pocket. When the group found out, we were able to explain that it was our responsibility, not his. He was reimbursed, and we announced to the group that we needed those

who could to contribute more. We replaced the funds and created a stronger prudent reserve.

My last example is more personal. My wife was the secretary/treasure of her district. My son from my first marriage was experiencing his own difficulties in life, and came to live with us out of a juvenile custody facility. He took the district treasury, which my wife had not had time to deposit. At the time, I was the sole breadwinner with two young children plus my son and wife to support, and I was not happy. However, it was our responsibility to replace the money, and we did.

When I first got to AA, I had a lot of loudly expressed opinions on many aspects of the program, most of which I didn't understand. These included the most common ones, such as wanting to be president of AA in recognition of my greatness, wanting to re-write the Big Book to suit my tastes and current language, thinking that I should be able to achieve 20 years of sobriety in two years, and the most popular of all—judging others. My sponsor calls it ego.

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### **I am An Alcoholic continued from p.1**

Anyhow we got to the hospital and I started to fill out the paperwork. Looking in my wallet, this was pre-cell phone days when one's wallet was a mini office of information, I realized I was married. Hmm I thought in that foggy moment, I wonder if she's hot. After getting stitched up and more of my memory came back I called her and recognized her voice. I told her I had had an accident and not to worry and was headed home. Given my track record I assumed she would assume I had gone back out drinking.

She also said I sounded very odd on the phone. By the time I got back to San Francisco where we lived, I was thinking pretty clearly, or so I thought. It was a few days before it all came back. Although I have never figured out how I got across the river and to the Benicia dock. To this day I can still remember my partner's face when I suggested we stop in for a few drinks, and the look he gave me like I was nuts. I have never forgotten what came next, the first thing I remembered, I'm an alcoholic my name is Frank.

I'm growing old now, I am aware I'm not as sharp as I used to be. I'm forgetful, like where did I put the car keys, old folks stuff like that. I wonder what the future will bring as my memory fades. I just hope I never forget,.....I'm an alcoholic my name is Frank, an if I forget my name, I hope I never forget..... I'm an alcoholic.

Frank





## RULE 62

My Hobby Is Drinking

**BY: BOY SCOUT**

I LIVE in the country and the AA group in this county meets weekly in the Parish House of one of the churches. I approached the building at about 7:45 that evening, not knowing what to expect but determined to go through with it no matter how bad it hurt.

As I entered the front door I saw some sort of meeting in progress in the main room and went in. People were moving around and no one paid any attention to me. Finally a man who seemed to be the master of ceremonies at the blackboard in the front of the room rapped on it with a pointer and called out:

"The meeting will now come to order. Please group yourselves in two concentric circles with the outer circle facing the inner circle. Now tell the partner who is facing you what your hobby is."

I am a man in my sixties and while I pride myself on having kept some of my youthful looks I can by no means claim to be a spring chicken. I noticed that quite a few of the people in the room were young, quite young, in fact. I had either lost touch or else the present younger generation was beginning to drink mighty early. Well, what of it? My partner, now facing me, was a teen-age girl of about fifteen. I had no particular hobby but I'd do the best I could.

"Well," I said, "I guess my hobby is drinking. What's yours?"

Her expression changed. Her eyes popped and her mouth fell open. I don't remember what she said or if she answered at all. But something seemed wrong, so I said, "Say, what is this meeting? Is this the AA meeting?"

"No o-o," she stammered, "it's the Boy Scouts."

Remarking that if I was in the right church I sure was in the wrong pew I hurriedly left the meeting and the room. On my way out of the building I saw a side room in which there were two people. I asked them if it were correct that Alcoholics Anonymous was supposed to meet in the building that night and I was told that they were meeting there, but in the room in the basement. I went downstairs and so attended my first AA meeting.

*"When I look at a new prospect I say to myself, 'If you don't take a drink, feller, you'll be where I am, and if I do take a drink, I'll be where you are--in no time flat'."*

Everyone is always talking about the 12 Steps in A.

A. Another way of thinking about it are the 12 Mis-Steps of A. A. Here they are:

1. Start missing meetings for any reason, real or imaginary.
2. Become critical of the methods used by other members who may not agree with you in everything.
3. Nurse the idea that someday, somehow, you can drink again and become a controlled drinker.
4. Let the other fellow do the 12th Step work in your group. You are too busy.
5. Become conscious of your A. A. seniority and view every new member with a skeptical, jaundiced eye.
6. Become so pleased with your own views of the program that you consider yourself an "elder statesman."
7. Start a small clique within your own group, composed only of a few members who see eye-to-eye with you.
8. Tell the new member in confidence that you yourself do not take certain of the 12 Steps seriously.
9. Let your mind dwell more and more on how much you are helping others rather than on how much the A. A. program is *helping you*.
10. If an unfortunate member has a slip, *drop him at once*.
11. Cultivate the habit of borrowing money from other members; then stay away from meetings to avoid embarrassment.
12. Look upon the 24-hour plan as vital to new members, but not for yourself. YOU have outgrown the need of that long, long ago.



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