

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



August 10, 2024  
Deanna S.  
Minden/Gardnerville  
Group  
Speaker at 7:00

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

## THE BRACER



Ruby Mountains

## August 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

## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

"EXTRAORDINARY things," a wise friend once told me, "are accomplished by ordinary means." It occurs to me that over a year has passed since I began this series. I've been saying my views are based on seven years of day-by-day sobriety; now I must begin to say eight. I'm a little bit awed. For an alcoholic, a year of sobriety is an extraordinary thing. Yet it was certainly accomplished by an ordinary person using the most ordinary of means--regular attendance at meetings, daily reference to the Twelve Steps, pitching in on odd jobs. Sometimes it seems to me that all of AA is like that: an organization doing an extraordinary job in the world by means which are not especially out of the ordinary. Astonishing things happen so quietly.

I remember just how I felt about Number Eight at the start. I didn't like it. Most of the time I didn't want to think about the persons I had harmed and was quite unwilling to make amends to them. Rather I inclined to brood darkly over those who had wounded me. Even on occasions when I was ready to admit that restitution was in order, I didn't have the remotest notion of how to go about it.

"Take this thing cafeteria style," I was advised. "Select what you want and can digest, and leave the rest till later." Part of the "rest" I elected to leave "till later" was the Eighth Step. Looking back, I have tried to find the reason why I so stoutly resisted the notion that my drinking might have hurt somebody, and that I ought to try to make it up to them. I think I have found the reason. It's this:

Whether we like it or not, we are fundamentally moral creatures. Even the most depraved of us offer moral justifications of what we do. The moral justification I gave for my drinking was that I wasn't hurting anybody but myself, therefore it was nobody's business. I kept thumping this theme whenever I was criticized, drumming it into the opposition year after year. Finally I drummed it into my own head so firmly I couldn't readily shake it: I almost believed, sometimes, that I was hurting only myself. An idea so firmly entrenched is not easily shaken, and this one held on a long time after I'd achieved physical sobriety.

Continue p. 7

A A's

## Recovery Step Eight:

"Made a list of all persons we have harmed and became willing to make amends to them all."

Three

## Unity Tradition Eight:

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

Legacies

## Service Concept Eight:

The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of over-all policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

### Concept 8

This Concept deals with the ways the General Service Board "discharges its heavy obligations," and its relationship with its two subsidiary corporations: A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. Long experience has proven that the board "must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger questions of policy, finance, group relations and leadership . . . . In these matters, it must act with great care and skill to plan, manage and execute." The board, therefore, must not be distracted or burdened with the details or the endless questions which arise daily in the routine operation of the General Service Office or the publishing operations, including Grapevine. "It must delegate its executive function" to its subsidiary, operating boards.

"Here, the board's attitude has to be that of custodial oversight . . . . The trustees are the guarantors of good management of A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc . . . . by electing the directors of these service arms, a part of whom must always be trustees . . . . The executive direction of these functions is . . . lodged in the . . . service corporations themselves, rather than the General Service Board. Each corporate service entity should possess its own bylaws, its own working capital, its own executives, its own employees, its own offices and equipment." Bill draws from earlier mistakes by the General Service Board in trying to run the service functions directly and warns repeatedly against "too much concentration of money and authority."



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



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

**September 14, 2024**  
**TBA**

**October 12, 2024**  
**TBA**

NNIG Speaker Chair: Robert S. - 775-247-9677  
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>	<b>Doors Open</b>	<b>5pm</b>
<b>NNIG Central Office</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>6pm</b>
<b>436 South Rock Blvd Sparks, NV</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>7pm</b>

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

**THE BIGGEST LITTLE RAINBOW+ AA CAMPOUT 2024**

Aug. 22-25, 2024  
R.S.V.P. by 8/10

Text camping or reserve RV spot or hotel nearby

Planned activities, speakers, floating meetings

Check in 3 p.m. Thurs. 8/22

S'mores & resentment bonfire @ dusk Friday

Saturday Night Potluck BBQ (\$10/day non-campers)

Sat. speaker: 5:30 p.m. & RAFFLE

Sun. speaker: 8 a.m.ish

**TOPAZ LAKE LGBTQ+ & FRIENDS**

**venmo**

**TOPAZ LAKE**  
3801-3899 Topaz Park Rd, Gardnerville, Nevada  
Site #5, 6, 7, 8  
(775) 782-9835  
[https://communityservice.s.douglascountynv.gov/parks/topaz\\_lake\\_recreation\\_area](https://communityservice.s.douglascountynv.gov/parks/topaz_lake_recreation_area)

**venmo**

**Pay cash or Venmo @Ashley-Mau (last 4 of phone # 5019) or cash on site**

> 2-3 nights adult camping with BBQ; \$30 pre-reg or \$35 day of // 1/7 & under FREE but still rsvp for head count // We will also take donations for food & sponsoring a camper

> Sat. night BBQ side dish potluck – tri tip, chicken & drinks provided

> Potluck based on sobriety month:

> Jan-Mar.: side dish // Apr-June: Salad or Fruit // Jul-Sept.: Dessert // Oct.-Dec.: Potato or macaroni salad

> Bring 1 firewood bundle per camper, a floaty, a chair & sunscreen, etc

> Coffee daily & Sunday breakfast provided!

# OTHER AREA EVENTS

**KISS ANNUAL BBQ PICNIC**

**SUMMER PARTY**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 11**

11:00-4:00  
IN-TOWN PARK  
119 S R 95A, FERNLEY, NV 89408

FREE HOTDOGS, HAMBURGERS, WATERS, AND SODAS!

**ACTIVITIES**  
RAFFLE ITEMS AND A 50/50, TOO!

BRING YOUR FAVORITE FOODS TO SHARE AND BRING YOUR FAMILY AS WELL! :-)

**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

**EASY DOES IT 2024**

**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

## Central office report from Ronda H. July 2024


The book of the month is "Came to Believe" \$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: 108 Hours  
Calls into Central Office: 145

- Calls for AA help -10
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 0
- Meeting information - 34
- Retail / merchandise - 21
- Other 12-step programs - 0
- Events – 15
- New to AA/ Talked with -5
- Business/Central office- 60
- Visitors – 257 -Dogs- 2
- Texts - 9

Ronda H.  
Central Office Manager






## July 2024

Jorinne P. 12 Years  
Dennis J. 24 Years

Previous Birthdays

June  
Paul E. 33 years  
Kyle L. 42 Years  
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 A. 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

The Attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.'s Twelve Steps.



**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

Brown  
Baggers  
Discussion  
1036 N Main St.  
Albany, CA

SATURDAY NIGHT  
FEVER  
1631 ESMERALDA  
PL  
GARDNERVILLE NV.

Came to Believe  
\$2 OFF

Came to Believe



## 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.

## Eighth Step Prayer

*Higher Power,*

*I ask for Your help in making my list of all those I have harmed.*

*I will take responsibility for my mistakes, and be forgiving to others just as  
You are forgiving to me. Grant me the willingness to begin my restitution.*

*This I pray.*

### NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2024

Group	July	YTD	Group	July	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE		183.80	A Vision for You		175.00
A Way Home		641.27	Happy Hour Reno	300.00	775.00
Alano Big Book Study			Kindred Spirits	500.00	750.00
Alano Brown Baggers	17.81	43.91	Kings Beach AA Golden Group	470.55	763.64
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	200.00	600.00	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE	25.00	95.00
Alano Women in Recovery			Minden Language of the Heart		
Back Room Group	95.53	263.40	Minden Saturday Night Fever		256.34
Back to Basics Saturday Night		771.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		448.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Gro	352.50	942.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live	72.91	119.69
Bishop High Sirra Group		103.65	Minden/Gardnerville Group	104.84	199.05
Blairsden Graeagle Sisters in Recovery			Mt Rose Men's Group	90.00	120.00
Blue Room Group		61.88	Mt Rose Candle Light	188.00	338.00
Caring & Sharing in Stead	161.10	722.31	Mt Rose Recovery Room	262.41	1367.54
Carson Alano Club		211.00	NNIG Business Meeting	30.00	246.50
Carson Big Book Experience			Old Time AA Group		68.42
Carson Brown Baggers	97.00	400.00	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	75.00	75.00
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free	100.00	539.25	RTC Almost Heaven	100.00	700.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's	250.00	750.00	RTC Aloha Group		1292.97
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		205.00	RTC Beginners are Winners	0.20	1946.20
Carson Sandbaggers		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	195.30	195.30	RTC Monday Night Mens		600.00
Chester Wednesday Women's Serenity					
Choices		100.00	RTC New Awakenings Group	239.03	737.45
Cold Springs Book Study			RTC Not a Glum Lot	6.91	6.91
Cornerstone Group	120.00	120.00	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	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		41.35
Decompression Chamber/online	120.90	738.42	Slide Mountain Serenity		750.55
District 12			South Y Shore Lake Group		180.00
District 14	50.00	300.00	Southside Group	148.20	1104.20
District 2	11.00	62.00	Step 1		160.00
District 22		625.35	Sunnyside Group	508.00	1748.00
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	111.00	408.59
End of the Road Group			The Shop		
Eye-Opener		1597.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Fallon Saturday Grapevine		100.00	Truckee Fellowship		
Fallon Silver Lining		31.50	Truckee River Men's Stag		1100.00
Fernley Kiss			Verdi Greener Pastures		200.00
Fireside Group		1318.35	Verdi Meditation	100.00	100.00
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	245.40	574.80	Westwood Monday Night		
Grupo Latino Reno			Whole in the Ground	250.00	600.00
Grupo Accion	10.00	60.00	Whole in the Soul	180.00	180.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz		135.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	40.00	320.00
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	72.00	Women's AA Literature		50.98
Grupo Volver A Empezar		20.00	Women's New Beginnings		1265.50
Incline Village Fellowship		96.75	Women's New Harmony		35.00
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	50.00	50.00	Yerington Group		200.00
Jamesville God Grant Me			Young at Heart		221.00
Jamesville Women's Monday Night					

**Total      5898.59    38,932.31**

I suppose if a person were unmarried and living alone he could work up a fairly logical-sounding argument along this line. But I was not a bachelor nor did I live alone, and anyway the argument is seen to be full of holes when looked at soberly. Old John Donne had a point when he made it clear so long ago that "no man is an island." Take the loneliest homeless drunk we can think of, and let's see whether he harms people. He harms the room clerk, the bellhop and the chambermaid of the hotel where he's holed up with a sense that their services are wasted, the cop and judge who finally lock him up and the doctor who treats him, with the frustration of such work. He harms the people he passes on the street by angering some, scaring others and saddening the rest. His friends are harmed by the lack of his friendship, and if he has no friends he's harming those who need friends, by depriving them. Let's face it, we alcoholics have hurt people by our insane drinking.

I certainly did. I had a boss, business associates, a wife, two kids, a brother, a sister, a father and a mother, and I damaged them all. Sometimes they could depend on me and sometimes they couldn't, and they never knew which time would be which. They all had a sense of insecurity where I was concerned, and this was especially hard on the kids, whose whole world wobbles when one of the parents at its center wobbles.

And I really wobbled. The night of my father's funeral I was drunk and when my mother came to my house for solace I was drunk and when people had a birthday or an anniversary or a solemn occasion or a crisis, I was drunk. I hurt myself most of all, and vaguely recognized it, and this recognition supported the fiction that I was harming only me. But no, I was harming many others.

Gradually, as the twenty-four-hour periods in AA linked themselves into weeks, then months and finally years, a subtle but profound change began to take place in my outlook. The change is hard to describe and still incomplete, but its direction is something like this: At first I inclined to feel that the universe was not giving me my just due, that I deserved far more and better than I got, that people were morally obligated to understand me better. As I change, I tend more and more to feel that I'm lucky God gave me a look-in on His marvelous Creation on any terms, that I'm fortunate to be let off so easy for my misdemeanors, that though I have little property lots of people have less and I'm lucky to have three squares, and that I've just got to find some way to understand other people better than I do. Before somebody points out that my humility is even shakier than usual, let me add

hastily that this appears to me to be a direction of growth and not a completed development. But there's improvement. Whereas I used to be sore all the time, now I'm only sore sometimes, and that, I submit, is growth.

Thoughts like this mean more and more to me: By being on earth at all we affect people.

God has given us the power to harm people if we want to.

Anybody can smash a fine delicate watch, but how many people can make one?

A person is a far more wonderful creation than the most marvelous watch. It's easy to smash a person's happiness, but how many people know how to mend that happiness?

Make amends? Sure, I'll make amends nowadays, if I can find out how. Some amends I can never make, in the sense of re-living years already lived. But I can try to live these present days in the way I ought to have lived all my days. In a way, that's making amends.

And it's funny how a deep change of heart brings about opportunities for restitution you never thought possible. There's a certain man I've always thought highly of; even in my drinking days I recognized him as fine. I flubbed things so badly, however, that our relationship was strained, so I thought, beyond repair. Yet just the other day I picked up the phone and called him on impulse. We had a nice chat, and by even so ordinary a means the extraordinary thing was accomplished: our relationship as friends was reestablished.

The central thing here, I believe is the state of mind, the attitude. "Became willing to make amends," the Step says. Once you've become willing, I've come to think, after eight years of trying to work this thing, the means of doing it will sooner or later present itself.

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May I always remember  
that the power within me is  
far greater than any fear  
before me. May I always  
have patience, for I am on  
the right road.



**Tradition 8***August 2018**Thanks for the call**By: Kristina F. | Tesuque, New Mexico**All alone and far from home, she really needed a meeting.**Luckily, AA has special workers.*

I'm in Los Angeles today, living the wonderful life AA has given me. I'm visiting from my home in New Mexico with a friend I've known for more than 50 years. This person is still my friend because of our program. We attended a wonderful concert at the Disney Hall yesterday. Now I'm in my hotel room about to pack for the plane ride home.

Last night I knew I'd want to make a meeting in the morning. I went to the [lacoaa.org](http://lacoaa.org) website, which helped me locate a meeting within walking distance.

This morning my service dog and I got up early and headed out in the rain toward our destination. After about 20 minutes we arrived at the address. It was a residential building. I looked around and spoke with a couple of people there about the existence of the AA meeting and no one knew anything about it. Confused, I turned to my dog and said, "This is L.A. and they can't give correct information to the out-of-towner?"

So I called Central Office—a couple of times. I was directed by the voice on the line toward a phone number for calls between 11:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. It was now 7:00 a.m. and I wanted my meeting. Then I couldn't remember the phone number they gave me so I had to do it all again. I hope you are getting the sense of my injured entitlement and rising resentment.

When I figured out how to put the Central Office voice message on speaker phone and grab the call-back number on my message app, I scribbled it down quickly, making only one mistake, which was easy enough for me to correct. I called the number. And again, I got an answering machine! Now fully frustrated, I left my name and number and a summary of my issue. I asked to be called back.

As I was walking away, thinking about where to get breakfast and how to maybe get to the 11:30 a.m. meeting and still make my plane, the phone rang. The young man on the other end of the line gave me the exact details I needed to get to the meeting. We both laughed, glad that neither of us was going to drink that day. I retraced my steps to the coffee shop I'd just passed, where below the street level AA meets every morning.

The topic at the meeting was a reading from the Daily Reflections, dated October 24: "By Faith and by Works." In the reading, it says, "God has allowed me the right to be wrong in order for our Fellowship to exist as it does today. If I place God's will first in my life, it is very likely that AA as I know it today will remain as it is."

The speaker was a young guy, a homeless fellow in his mid-30s. He doesn't have a lot of experience with us yet, but finds that if he sticks with the Steps and his sponsor's suggestions, things go a lot better. He can see the impact of his joy and freedom on the dozens of men he's in the rooms with and knows that there's a reason the old-timers take our Traditions seriously.

It was a round-robin meeting. When I spoke, I reflected on the beauty of these friends. A designer, a web guy, a man in a suit, a professor, a quiet elderly fellow, a guy in gym clothes—and me, with my dog. These people were like the friends who have sustained me and cared for me for 18 years. I want to give to them what has been given to me, to share in the reality that none of this could happen but for Bill W.'s insistence that he was just a drunk like the rest of us.

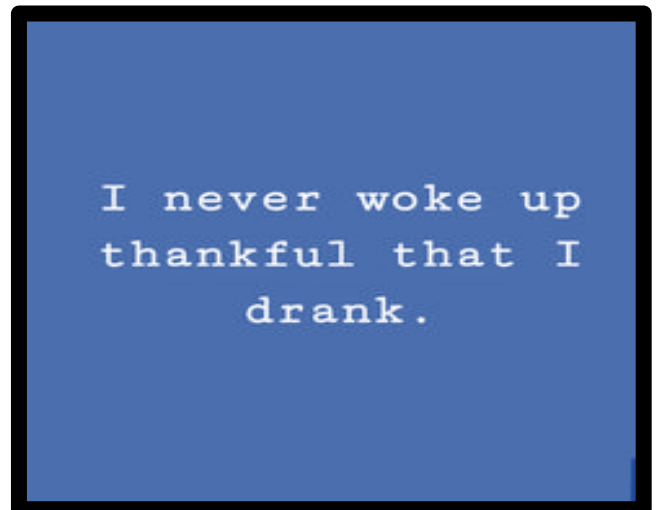
The primary purpose of the Los Angeles County Alcoholics Anonymous, like every AA service organization throughout the world, is to do everything it can to help the still-suffering alcoholic. The group I was in that day, and others like it, support a Central Office, with a website and a phone system, to be certain that one way or the other, the alcoholic wandering the streets—me—can find the "fellowship we crave."

So you could say that the website missed the mark and didn't give good directions or that the meeting should have had a greeter. I certainly thought that. You could say I was judgmental and arrogant about the level of service I received, and I'd agree with you. But in AA we have the right to be ineffective, self-absorbed, judgmental and wrong. That's what binds us together.

Once again, on a rainy morning in Los Angeles, when I needed a meeting, a Higher Power and a call from Central Office led me to exactly where I needed to be.

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## RULE 62

A certain alky is having a bit of trouble with the program off and on and there is a definite lack of harmony in his domestic relations.

One morning over breakfast his wife attempted to discuss matters with him in the hope of finding a basis for happier relations.

She suggested that they should try prayer.

"Prayer!" he shouted, "I pray about it every morning, and you haven't changed a damn bit!"



NO man is ever entirely useless--he can always serve as a horrible example.

A New Jersey police chief has different classifications of persons who have swilled too much C2-H5-OH in one form or another:

### *Alias Joe Louis*

1. The fighting drunk--gets nasty after a few drinks and wants to fight anyone he sees, male or female.
2. The religious drunk--heads for the nearest church and drops off to sleep. (This species is comparatively rare in Alliance.)
3. The leaning drunk--is reluctant to move and wants to lean on the nearest upright solid substance, whether it is the policeman, a fellow pedestrian, lamp post or a plain wall.
4. The crying drunk--this obnoxious person carries a good part of the community's alcohol in his system and a large part of the woes of the world on his heaving shoulders.

### *"Unsweet Adeline"*

5. The singing drunk--here's the person who after a few bottles or drinks is convinced he can make Tibbett look and sound like a chump. Flats where he should sharp.
6. The suspicious drunk--he's convinced that the police or his companions or both, are trying to railroad him into some asylum or jail, where he rightly should be, by the way.
7. The wife-beating drunk--this character is usually a small man mentally and physically and would not engage in a fight with a 7-year-old boy without the false courage of a bottle. When he drinks he wants to lambaste somebody, usually his ever-suffering wife.
8. The running drunk--this guy is always in a hurry. He goes crabwise down the street, usually in search of another shot.

### *The Big Gesture*

9. The generous drunk--this slaphappy person is tighter than Jack Benny with a nickel until he drinks too much and then he makes a fool of himself by going around waving fistfull of bills at everybody. It's usually the money to pay off an old telephone bill.
10. The loving drunk--he always wants to kiss every woman in sight except his own wife.
11. The talking drunk--tells interminable stories, invariably about himself. None of the yarns has any point or interest.
12. The important drunk--this is the person who wants to dominate everybody around him and who is filled with yarns about all the big shots he knows.



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