

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



September 14, 2024
Aaron H.
Positive Acceptance
Group
Speaker at 7:00

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

THE BRACER



Genoa, NV

September 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

A Wagonload of Forgiveness

BY: EDWARD H. | BRENTWOOD, NEW YORK

The word "sin" is not one we often hear at meetings. I must admit, however, as a kid I felt sinful. Guilt must follow sin and fear must follow guilt. Such seems to be our psychological makeup. What was I to do with this "unholy trinity" of sin, guilt, and fear? Ego told me the best way to get rid of it was to project it onto other people; they were the guilty ones, not me. I began to look outside myself for scapegoats. I wanted to see in others the very defects that were in me. Now I needed a technique to keep distance between myself and those I hated and this is where anger came into the picture. As long as I stayed angry at others I didn't have to look at myself. This anger prevented me from having healthy relationships and it certainly got in the way of my being able to experience the Eighth and Ninth Steps. It took a wagonload of forgiveness for me to be able to make the list and be willing to make amends. I realize today that anger is nothing more than an attempt to make someone else feel guilty. Anger is never justified. Mind you, I'm not saying that I do not get angry. I'm simply saying it is never justified. I may be angry but I am willing not to be.

As used in context, the word "direct" means "straightforward, plain, or frank." This could describe either a face-to-face encounter or one in the form of writing. To "amend" means to change. Improving relationships with family and others is a way of amending. Clearly, we are making certain amends simply by remaining sober, but the Ninth Step asks far more than this. My Ninth Step did not take the form of apologies. In my drinking days I suppose I had apologized a thousand times but I never changed anything. In working the Ninth Step I asked forgiveness of the people on the list because I had not been the person--the husband, father, brother, son, etc.--that I might have been were it not for my alcoholism. I must also be able to forgive those people in order to become "willing to make amends to them all."

Continue p. 7

A A's

Recovery Step Nine:

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

Three

Unity Tradition Nine:

“A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”

Legacies

Service Concept Nine:

“The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.”

Concept 9

“No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure . . . Weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures.” Due to A.A.’s principle of rotation, furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous effort. The base of the service structure — and the source of our leadership — is the General Service Representative. The GSR is the service leader for his or her group, the indispensable link between the group and A.A. as-a-whole. Together the GSRs are A.A.’s group conscience — and together, in their areas, they elect the area committee members and ultimately the delegates and the area’s candidates for trustee. Groups who have not named GSRs should be encouraged to do so. And as the GSRs meet in area assemblies, care and dedication are required. Personal ambitions should be cast aside; feuds and controversies forgotten. “Who are the best qualified people?” should be the thought of all. “No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception. Fortunately, our Society is blessed with any amount of real leadership — the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us. “A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him and help him with his job. “Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source. “Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility. “Another qualification for leadership



is ‘give and take,’ the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction . . . We cannot, however, compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one’s convictions about an issue until it is settled. “Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example. We s not boss us.’

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 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 1-8



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



September 14, 2024
Aaron H. Long Beach CA
Host Group-Positive Acceptance Group

October 12, 2024
Andre W. Garden Grove, CA
Host Group- A Vision for You

November 2, 2024

James E. Reno, NV
Host Group
Truckee River Men's Stag

NNIG Speaker Chair: Robert S. - 775-247-9677
 Need more info call: Central Office - (775) 355-1151
 Join us for dinner at Cafe Central @ ~3 pm with the speaker.

NNIG 2024 Gratitude Dinner



Saturday November 9, 2024

Speaker: Todd J. Idyllwild, CA
 Seated Dinner \$65

TICKETS	Doors Open	5pm
NNIG Central Office	Dinner	6pm
436 South Rock Blvd	Speaker	7pm
Sparks, NV		

Reno Ballroom
 401 University Way, Reno, NV 89501

AA Recovery


NNIG Presents
HALLOWEEN 2024
 October 19, 2024



Games & Cake Walk 4-5:30pm
 Food 4:30-6pm
 Taco's \$7 for 3
 Costume Contest 5:30-6pm
 Raffle 6:30-7pm
 Josh F.-Speaker 7-8pm

Suggested contribution \$5

Neil Road Recreation Center
 3925 Neil Rd Reno NV




NNIG Service Event
 September 21, 2024
 972B Tallac 11 am
 South Lake Tahoe, CA

↔

What is Intergroup?

- Overview of Northern Nevada Intergroup.
- Presentations on services your local AA provides and ways to be of service.
- Lunch provided.

For more information call Central Office 775-355-1151



NNIG Service Event
 October 19, 2024
 141 Industrial Way 1:15-3 pm
 Fallon, NV

↔

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OTHER AREA EVENTS



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 “Daily Reflections” \$2 OFF 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 to be added to this once-a-month email.

Volunteer Hours: 107

Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help -10
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 0
- Meeting information - 28
- Retail / merchandise - 19
- Other 12-step programs - 4
- Events – 14
- New to AA/ Talked with -2
- Business/Central office- 52
- **Visitors –280 -Dogs- 4**
- **Texts - 6**

*Ronda H.
Central Office Manager*



Previous Birthdays
 July
 JoAnne P. 12 Years
 Dennis J. 24 Years
 June
 Paul E. 35 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 T. 37 Years
 October 2023
 Sharon F. 39 Years
 Dave S. 40 Years
 September 2023
 Phil S. 47 Years
 Mike H. 28 Years

August 2024

Michael B. 36 years
Dawn K. 13 Years
Linda G. 32 years



Two more satisfied customers at the Central Office!
(Yes the doggie Snacks helped)

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

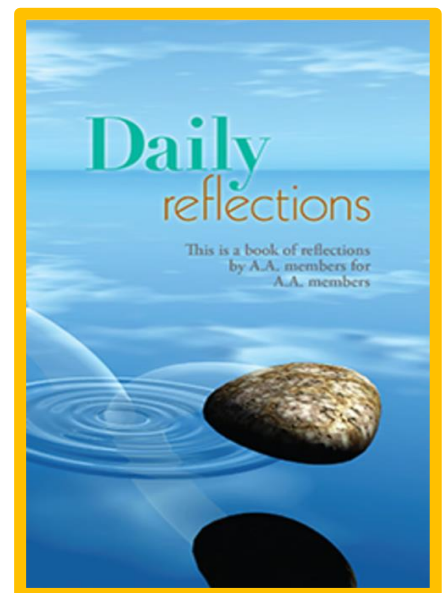
Five N Live
Saturday 5:15 PM
Alano Club
680 River St.
Elko, NV

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

Daily Relections
\$2 OFF

Brown
Baggers
Discussion
1036 N Main St.
Alturas, CA

SATURDAY NIGHT
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
 2nd Saturday of the month
N.N.I.G. H&I
 Call Central Office
 775-355-1511

CENTRAL OFFICE

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

District Meetings

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

AREA CLUBS

Reno / Sparks Clubs

Alano Club Sparks, 1640 Prater Way (775) 359-2727
 Driars Club Reno 345 S. Wells Avenue (775) 324-9210
 Triangle Club Reno 635 S Wells Avenue (775) 324-7977

Clubs outside Reno/Sparks Area

Alano Club Carson City, 1800 HWY 50 East (775) 882-0443
 Bishop Alano Club (760) 873-6700
 Elko Alano Club (775) 738-4747
 Las Vegas Triangle Club (702) 435-0597
 South Lake Tahoe (530) 541-1243

AA Area 42 Translation & Interpretation Committee



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

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.

Nine Step Prayer

*I pray for the right attitude to make my
 amends, being ever mindful not to harm
 others in the process. I ask for Your
 guidance in making indirect amends.
 Most important, I will continue to make
 amends by staying abstinent, helping
 others, and growing in spiritual progress.*

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2024

Group	August	YTD	Group	August	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	23.90	207.70	A Vision for You		175.00
A Way Home	451.42	1092.69	Happy Hour Reno		775.00
Alano Big Book Study			Kindred Spirits		750.00
Alano Brown Baggers		43.91	Kings Beach AA Golden Group		763.64
Alano C ST. Discussion		65.00	Ladies of The Evening		
Alano Jaywalkers	459.17	950.84	Ladies of the Lake		
Alano Living Sober			Lone Pine Group		45.00
Alano Open Heart Open Mind		50.00	McGill NV Freedom Group	36.86	36.86
Alano Sunshine Group		600.00	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE		95.00
Alano Women in Recovery			Minden Language of the Heart		
Back Room Group		263.40	Minden Saturday Night Fever		256.34
Back to Basics Saturday Night	300.00	1070.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		448.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		942.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		119.69
Bishop High Sirra Group	31.35	135.00	Minden/Gardnerville Group		199.05
Blairsden Graeagle Sisters in Recovery			Mt Rose Men's Group		120.00
Blue Room Group		61.88	Mt Rose Candle Light		338.00
Caring & Sharing in Stead		722.31	Mt Rose Recovery Room		1367.54
Carson Alano Club		211.00	NNIG Business Meeting	28.00	274.50
Carson Early Birds	567.22	567.22	Old Time AA Group	48.53	116.95
Carson Brown Baggers		400.00	Portola Group		100.00
Carson City Un Dia a La Vez		293.10	Positive Acceptance Group	621.94	1169.10
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting	296.00	1476.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		75.00
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		539.25	RTC Almost Heaven	50.00	750.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		750.00	RTC Aloha Group	765.42	2058.39
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		205.00	RTC Beginners are Winners		1946.20
Carson Sandbaggers	100.00	500.00	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	RTC Monday Night Mens		600.00
Chester Wednesday Women's Serenity Choices	100.00	200.00	RTC New Awakenings Group		737.45
Cold Springs Book Study			RTC Not a Glum Lot		6.91
Cornerstone Group		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	643.80	1411.40	Sisters in Sobriety	86.27	119.02
Dayton Sunday Morning		360.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		41.35
Decompression Chamber/online	109.58	848.00	Slide Mountain Serenity		750.55
District 12			South Y Shore Lake Group		180.00
District 14	50.00	350.00	Southside Group	208.17	1312.37
District 2		62.00	Step 1		160.00
District 22	151.50	776.85	Sunnyside Group		1748.00
District 6			Susanville Fellowship		100.00
Double R at Noon			Tahoe City Fellowship		100.00
Driars Knuckleheads	133.03	133.03	The Next Chapter		100.00
Elko			The Rock Group		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	75.00	106.50	Truckee River Men's Stag	500.00	1600.00
Fernley Kiss			Verdi Greener Pastures		200.00
Fireside Group		1318.35	Verdi Meditation		100.00
First Responders		130.00	Weekend Warriors	24.15	39.78
Galena Friday Night		50.00	Westwood AA		
Greenville Group		100.00	Westwood Back to Basics		107.08
Ground Zero		574.80	Westwood Monday Night		
Grupo Latino Reno			Whole in the Ground		600.00
Grupo Accion		60.00	Whole in the Soul		180.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz		135.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		320.00
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	92.00	Women's AA Literature		50.98
Grupo Volver A Empezar		20.00	Women's New Beginnings	142.50	1408.00
Incline Village Fellowship		96.75	Women's New Harmony		35.00
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	50.00	100.00	Yerington Group		200.00
Inclined to be Sober	97.50	97.50	Young at Heart		221.00
Jamesville Women's Monday Night					
Hispanic State Convention	300.00	300.00			

Total 6471.31 45,402.62

TRADITION NINE: A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

100 Cups of coffee

I recall an incident that occurred some time ago in a group whose treasurer was a professional money person. The group trusted her implicitly. At each group conscience meeting, the treasurer assured the members that they had plenty of money to meet expenses and everything was shipshape. Nobody questioned her until an unpaid invoice for coffee came to the attention of another member. When it was brought to the treasurer's attention, she again assured everyone that it was an oversight and the bill would be paid in short order. But it wasn't. Suspicions were aroused and the group continued to ask for an actual accounting, but the treasurer somehow avoided compliance with their request. Shortly thereafter, the treasurer rotated out of her group service position and the group learned that the bill had been paid and the money was accounted for. It seems the treasurer was guilty only of procrastination. But while their collective conscience was relieved, the group carefully chose their next treasurer and instructed him on how to do the job. Rotation was their saving grace. The principle of rotation is expressed in the Long Form of Tradition Nine which states that "rotating leadership is the best."

It is incumbent upon groups to choose their trusted servants with care, and further, to let them know what's expected of them. Before coming to AA, I'd never made 100 cups of coffee in my life. I knew how to make six or eight or 10—but 100? I'm grateful to the members of my group who showed me how (we wrote the recipe on the cardboard box that held the supplies; I still make coffee according to that recipe.) Too often, we assume others already know what we know.

But what should we do with the errant treasurers who "borrow" AA funds? Individual or collective anger directed toward the perpetrator could divert the group from its primary purpose. Some groups may attempt to recover funds by initiating legal action, forgetting that we avoid public controversy. Is the group harmed by the loss of money—or a bruised vanity? Should the group take the opposite tack—forgive and forget? In my opinion, the answers lie within the group conscience itself. Perhaps the group should take its own inventory, bearing in mind that Alcoholics Anonymous is not a punitive society—we punish no one. We don't have to. Bill W. writes in Warranty Five of Concept XII, "When we of AA fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down."

A wagonload of Forgiveness continued.

Every Step has a spiritual dimension, including this one. Do you remember the first time you fell in love, how beautiful it was? The phenomenon that was taking place, I believe, is that we were able to suspend judgment of that person long enough to see goodness in them. I believe it is possible to love everyone else the same way. In the final song of the play "Les Miserables" one of the lines is, "To love another person is to see the face of God."

Bill W.'s wife, Lois, addressed an AA function shortly before her death. The guy who drove her to the meeting told me later that he had revered her as a saint. At the meeting, however, she put things in perspective. Lois said, "I watched you people treat Bill as a savior and since his death you have been treating me the same way." She added, "I have no difficulty with this except to say that if you see yourselves as any less of a savior you are shirking your responsibility."

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.

The recommended questions are as follows:

BY: T. W. R. | ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

If your prospect is an artful dodger try him on these blockbusters

FOR those of us who have been around a while and who endeavor to "carry the message," there appears to be one question continually asked of us: "Am I an Alcoholic?"

Simply to tell the new man that he will have to determine that for himself is not very helpful in many cases. He wants a yardstick whereby he may measure his alcoholism.

I have propounded the usual question, "Is the sum total of your drinking consequences good or bad?", and the poor guy doesn't know the answer. Nature, mercifully but unwisely, enables us to

remember our good times but erases the memory of the painful ones.

I've tried the old "test questions" and they, too, fall short of a convincing mark. The true alky can sidestep most of them faster than you can ask the questions.

For instance, take the following examples:

"Do you drink alone?" He will say "sometimes" but will not add that if someone else owns the bottle he drinks socially, if he owns the bottle he is a lone drinker. "Does your drinking interfere with your work?" He will give an emphatic "No." He fails to add that work frequently interferes with his drinking.

"Do you observe a noticeable personality change when drinking?" He will admit to this but quickly add that the personality change is not in him but in his wife.

And so it goes. I am forced to concede that the wet alcoholic who is fighting in desperation to maintain his way of life has a decided advantage over the dry alcoholic who is armed only with sweetness and love and who is endeavoring to pull the very earth from beneath his feet.

It has often occurred to me that somehow, sometime, we could formulate a series of questions that were escape proof; ones that the alcoholic mind, even in its frantic necessity, could not side-step or evade. Then I recalled that our Twelve Steps were not the product of one gigantic mind but a pooling of the experiences of many. This indicated the procedure to be followed in this case and I gathered together a number of experts, true "master minds of the gutter," and compiled a list of questions gleaned from our several experiences that even an alcoholic mind could not evade, rationalize or side-step.

The one fallacy of the list of questions is that they are more applicable to men than women because our staff of experts were all men. We felt that the lady experts could easily formulate their own questions after reading ours.

The recommended questions are as follows:

1. Did you ever have a bank ask you to call and verify your signature?

2. Did you ever go to the corner store for a pack of cigarettes and get home four days later?
3. Did you ever get locked in a zoo?
4. Did you ever buy whiskey in jail?
5. Did you ever take a bath with your clothes on?
6. Did you ever get locked up when you were guilty?
7. Did you ever try to swim the English Channel, starting from Atlantic City?
8. Did you ever look through drawn shades to see if it was 3 A.M. or 3 P.M.?
9. Did you ever hide whiskey in a hotel room where you were the only occupant?
10. Did you ever have to wait for your bed to circle in front of you before you could jump in?
11. Did you ever get on a "running" drunk? 12.
12. Did you ever wake up with all kinds of odd people in your bed?
13. Did you ever lose the back seat of your car?
14. Did you ever drive a car because you were too drunk to walk?
15. Did you ever have your shirt turn purple after drinking wine?
16. Did you ever declare war on a whole police force?
17. Did you ever leave or lose your teeth in any strange place?

It is our opinion that if the "patient" answers any ten questions in the affirmative and then tops them, he is entitled to AA membership.

Respectfully submitted in the interest of Alcoholic Science.

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RULE 62

The speaker was going on and on. A man in the fifth row stood up and walked out. As the speaker was winding up, the man returned. After the meeting, the speaker asked the man where he went. "I went for a haircut," he said. "A haircut? Why didn't you get a haircut before the meeting started?" The man replied, "I didn't need a haircut before the meeting started."



RETURNING from a trip to Europe, Mark Twain became annoyed as a customs official rummaged through his baggage. "My good friend," the author exclaimed, "you don't have to mix up all my things. There are only clothes in there—nothing but clothes."

But the official kept rooting around until he hit something hard. He pulled out a quart of bourbon.

"You call this 'just clothes'?"

cried the official.

"Sure thing,"

Twain replied calmly.

"That is my nightcap."



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 steps 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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