

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



October 12, 2024  
Andre W.  
Host group – A Vision for You  
Speaker at 7:00

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

## THE BRACER



Ruby Valley, NV

## October 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

## Unity=Love

By: Chad P. | St. Louis, Missouri

Before coming to my first AA home group, the Here's H.O.W. group in Carbondale, Illinois, I had never experienced being equal to the people around me. I either felt better or worse. I was really able to see the change when I got to start chairing meetings there. I was so fearful. I felt like I was shouldering the responsibility all alone. But to my surprise I simply followed the format and everyone else's lead carried me like a wave through those beautiful hours.

When I suggested a meeting topic that someone else didn't like, and a member said so when he shared, it was all totally OK. The meeting went on without any kind of crisis or problem. Who won? We all did! To leave the meeting feeling truly uplifted, not on edge from confrontation—what a terrific gift that was. That's been my experience in virtually every AA meeting I've been to, in one way or another: peaceful equalization, a loving kind of leveling.

I believe that sense of peaceful leveling has been most striking to me in prison and jail AA meetings, which I've had the great fortune of attending as a visitor from outside. We all get to share, and the sense of division dissolves. Those of us who live in the facility and those who will be leaving after it's over, for that moment are all truly on the same journey—that day of sobriety. It doesn't mean that the circumstances of my life don't matter, quite the opposite. It means that I can share about life with those who understand me most, and therefore see my circumstances for what they are.

I love this blessed experience of equality in meetings. I personally don't subscribe to that saying we hear: "the newcomer is the most important person in the room." If I took that to heart, it could mean that in fact there is a hierarchy where some are better than others, and that's exactly what Tradition One frees me from!

Plus, I have a cunning disease that will tell me...Hey, I know how you can become the most important person in the room.

Continue p. 8

A A's

## Recovery Step Ten:

“Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admit it.”

Three

## Unity Tradition Ten:

“Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.”

Legacies

## Service Concept Ten:

“Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority — the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and bylaws.”

### Concept 10

“Our service structure cannot function effectively and harmoniously unless, at every level, each operational responsibility is matched by a corresponding authority to discharge it. This requires that authority must be delegated at every level — and that the responsibility and authority of every entity are well defined and clearly understood. As we have seen (Concept I) “final responsibility and ultimate authority” reside with the A.A. groups, and they delegate this authority to the Conference (Concept II).

The Conference, in turn, delegates to the General Service Board the authority to manage A.A.’s affairs (Concept VI) in its behalf. The board is in authority over its subsidiary operating corporations — A.A. World Services, Inc. and AA Grapevine, Inc. — but it delegates to the directors of those corporations the authority necessary to run these service entities. The directors are in authority over the executives of the corporations, but delegate to these officers the authority needed to carry out their administrative responsibilities. And finally, the executives delegate to the GSO and Grapevine staff members and other employees the authority necessary to carry out their important service jobs.

“It is perfectly clear,” says Bill, “that when delegated authority is operating well, it should not be constantly interfered with.” Otherwise, he warns, “those charged with operating responsibly will be demoralized.”

For example, the General Service Board owns the two operating corporations and its authority over them is absolute. “Nevertheless, so long as things go well, it is highly important that the trustees do not unnecessarily interfere with or usurp the operating authority of these entities.”



“To sum up: Let us always be sure that there is an abundance of final or ultimate authority to correct or to reorganize; but let us be equally sure that all of our trusted servants have a clearly defined and adequate authority to do their daily work and to discharge their clear responsibilities.

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 1-8



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



**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

**December 14, 2024**  
 TBD

**January 11, 2025**

**Hunter-Reno NV**  
 Host Group- Not a Glum Lot

NNIG Speaker Chair: Robert S. - 775-247-9677  
 Need more info call: Central Office - (775) 355-1151  
 Join us for dinner at Cafe 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>
NNIG Central Office	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>6pm</b>
436 South Rock Blvd	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>7pm</b>
Sparks, NV		

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





**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

**\$5 Suggested contribution**

**Neil Road Recreation Center**  
 3925 Neil Rd Reno NV



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

←—————→

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

## 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  
 2600 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

**New Venue**  
 District 16's

**37th Annual Christmas Affair**  
 "Connecting with Love, Unity and Service"  
 Saturday December 21st 2024  
 12:00 to 5:00 PM

**American Legion Darrell Dunkle Post 1**  
 877 Ralston Street, Reno, NV.  
 Come for food, fun, and fellowship!  
 Please bring a dessert to share!!!

**Service Panel Discussion: \*12:15 PM**  
 Connecting with Love, Unity and Service (TBD)

**Santa: \*1:30 PM**

**Turkey Dinner with all the Extras: \*2:00 PM**  
**Speaker: \*3:00 PM**  
 (TBD)

**Raffle: After Speaker**  
 \*All times are approximate

**\$5.00 Suggested Contribution**

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



## Central office report from Ronda H. July 2024

The book of the month is “ANY Grapevine Book” \$2 OFF Get yours while supplies last! Pamphlet is “Where Money & Spirituality Mix.” FREE. 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: 98

Calls into Central Office: 122

- Calls for AA help - 5
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 1
- Meeting information - 35
- Retail / merchandise - 18
- Other 12-step programs - 2
- Events – 15
- New to AA/ Talked with - 1
- Business/Central office- 45
- Visitors – 289 -Dogs- 6
- Texts - 7

Ronda H.  
Central Office Manager



### Previous Birthdays

#### August

Dawn K. 15 Years  
Linda G. 32 Years  
Michael B. 33 Years

#### July

JoyAnne P. 12 Years  
Dennis J. 24 Years

#### June

Paul C. 33 years  
Kyle L. 42 Years

#### May

Donn T. 34 Years

#### April

Ron T. 15 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

#### November 2023

Sean L. 32 Years  
Rich H. 37 Years

#### October 2023

Sharon F. 39 Years  
Dave S. 40 Years

## September 2024

**David 27 Years**

**Angelica B. 1 Years**

**Mike H. 29 years**

**Phil S. 48 Years**



“We have come to believe He would like us to keep our heads in the clouds with Him, but that our feet ought to be firmly planted on earth.” P.130 88

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

ANY Grapevine Book  
**\$2 OFF**



Brown  
Baggers  
Discussion  
1036 N Main St.  
Albany, CA

SATURDAY NIGHT  
FEVER  
1631 ESMERALDA  
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 5:30 pm PST

We welcome all interested or just curious!

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

Zoom ID:474 938 3601  
Passcode: Rule62

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  
'squirrelly' or on edge? Be a part of carrying the  
message to those shut-ins by joining us as we  
trudge the road of happy destiny on the*

### **Sunshine Committee!!**

*Sobriety requirement—1 year  
We will work with your schedule  
Call: Ann .—650-290-4335  
Email: [oschwenderlauf@gmail.com](mailto:oschwenderlauf@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.

## Tenth Step Prayer

*I pray I may continue:*

*To grow in understanding and effectiveness;  
To take daily spot-check inventories of myself;*

*To correct mistakes when I make them;*

*To take responsibility for my actions;*

*To be ever aware of my negative and self-defeating attitudes and behaviors;*

*To keep my willfulness in check;*

*To always remember I need Your help;*

*To keep love and tolerance of others as*

*my code; And to continue in daily prayer how*

*I can best serve You, my Higher Power .*

### NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2024

Group	September	YTD	Group	September	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	28.17	235.87	A Vision for You		175.00
A Way Home		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	3133.00	3896.64
Alano C ST. Discussion		65.00	Ladies of The Evening		
Alano Jaywalkers		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
Alano Sunshine Group	200.00	800.00	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE		95.00
Alano Women in Recovery			Minden Language of the Heart		
Back Room Group	68.71	332.11	Minden Saturday Night Fever		256.34
Back to Basics Saturday Night		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		135.00	Minden/Gardnerville Group		199.05
Blairsden Graeagle Sisters in Recovery			Mt Rose Men's Group		120.00
Blue Room Group	95.86	157.74	Mt Rose Candle Light		338.00
Caring & Sharing in Stead	212.65	934.96	Mt Rose Recovery Room	588.40	1955.94
Carson Alano Club	171.00	382.00	NNIG Business Meeting	31.00	305.50
Carson Early Birds		567.22	Old Time AA Group		116.95
Carson Brown Baggers		400.00	Portola Group		100.00
Carson City Un Dia a La Vez		293.10	Positive Acceptance Group		1169.10
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting		1476.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group	52.50	127.50
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		539.25	RTC Almost Heaven	50.00	800.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		750.00	RTC Aloha Group		2058.39
Carson Men's NO BS Stag	70.00	275.00	RTC Beginners are Winners		1946.20
Carson Sandbaggers		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	195.30	483.60
Chester Saturday Night Group		195.30	RTC Monday Night Mens		600.00
Chester Wednesday Women's Serenity Choices		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 Campou	500.00	1000.00
Dayton Fellowship Hall			Serenity on Sundays		
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62			Silver Springs Groups		
Dayton Red Rooster		1411.40	Sisters in Sobriety		119.02
Dayton Sunday Morning		360.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		41.35
Decompression Chamber/online		848.00	Slide Mountain Serenity		750.55
District 12			South Y Shore Lake Group		180.00
District 14	50.00	400.00	Southside Group		1312.37
District 2	11.00	73.00	Step 1		160.00
District 22	150.00	926.85	Sunnyside Group		1748.00
District 6			Susanville Fellowship		100.00
Double R at Noon			Tahoe City Fellowship		100.00
Driars Knuckleheads		133.03	The Next Chapter	100.00	200.00
Elko			The Rock Group	227.50	636.09
End of the Road Group			The Shop		
Eye-Opener		1597.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Fallon Saturday Grapevine		100.00	Truckee Fellowship	48.38	48.38
Fallon Silver Lining		106.50	Truckee River Men's Stag		1600.00
Fernley Kiss			Verdi Greener Pastures		200.00
Fireside Group		1318.35	Verdi Meditation		100.00
First Responders		130.00	Weekend Warriors		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	10.00	70.00	Whole in the Soul		180.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz		135.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	50.00	370.00
Grupo Solo Por Hoy		92.00	Women's AA Literature		50.98
Grupo Volver A Empezar	10.00	30.00	Women's New Beginnings	200.00	1608.00
Incline Village Fellowship		96.75	Women's New Harmony	120.00	120.00
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio		100.00	Yerington Group		200.00
Inclined to be Sober		97.50	Young at Heart	89.00	310.00
Jamesville Women's Monday Night					
Hispanic State Convention		300.00			
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza	30.00	30.00			
Grupo Nueva Esperanza	10.00	10.00			

**Total**    6502.47    51,770.09



*Tenth Tradition - Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.*

### Opinions: Yours, Mine, and Ours

By: Fran D. | New Orleans, Louisiana

Most of us understand the importance of Tradition Ten as it applies to AA as a whole. We have no trouble imagining what a fiasco would result if our General Service Office in New York began to endorse political candidates, support other causes, approve or disapprove of decisions made by religious bodies, or in any other way stray from our main objective.

It wouldn't be long before AA groups got into the act. There would be an AA-Alcoholics Back Big Bill for President Group in Biloxi, and an AA-Alcoholics Join John Jones Against Juveniles in Jail Group in Jacksonville.

Eventually, I'm sure we'd wind up with an AA-Alcoholics Support International Nonsense In Nations Everywhere Group, which we could just call AA-ASININE for short.

We can laugh about it only because it isn't happening, and that's because we have Tradition Ten.

But GSO in New York isn't the only representation we have. Our regional conferences, area assemblies, conventions, and local central offices must also take care not to express themselves concerning any outside issues.

Individual members speaking to a nurses association meeting, school, or business group, through an arrangement made by a public information committee, have the responsibility of not putting forth their own views as though they were those of AA, as does the speaker at an open meeting.

"The opinions you hear expressed here are those of the speakers and do not necessarily represent the opinion of AA as a whole." I hear that announcement, or one similar to it, at the beginning of many AA meetings. I'm embarrassed to admit how long I was a member of AA before, one night, it finally dawned on me: "That's the Tenth Tradition!"

Early in my sobriety I remember thinking, as I headed to a meeting, "I wonder what my newfound friends will have to say about today's events." I can't remember what the events of that day were; maybe some political scandal that had broken or an election that had taken place. I know it was something of national importance, and I could hardly wait to hear what my fellow AA members thought about it.

The meeting started, a topic was introduced, and the discussion began. No one even mentioned the monumental event of the day. It might have been discussed over coffee later, but it wasn't a part of what was going on in that meeting room.

That's frequently the way AA meetings go, but not always.

As individuals, we have lots of opinions, and we frequently express them in meetings. If you doubt this, the next time you're at your home group pretend there is someone with a bell who rings it every time an outside issue is mentioned. If that were to happen, that bell would soon be chiming so much that the meeting would sound like midnight in a clock factory.

Some of us talk about how our weird religious upbringing affected our thinking, or how angry we are about the latest decision of the city council. We may deride a corporation's stupid hiring practices, or mothers-in-law in general.

But if some kind of disclaimer is read at the beginning of the meeting when we take off on one of these tangents, the visitor or newcomer doesn't think we are postulating a theory that belongs to AA.

What a gift the Tenth Tradition is to us in AA. It means that we don't have to bolt and run when someone--in a discussion meeting or from the podium--says something with which we don't agree. It allows us the privilege of "taking what we want and leaving the rest" from each member's comments.

Maybe even more important, it gives speakers an opportunity to say what they think. When our turn comes to speak, we are given the same incredible freedom of expression and it's understood that we speak as individuals, not for AA as a whole.

As much as I appreciate the right to express my opinion, I appreciate even more the wisdom of our early leaders in deciding that, as far as outside issues go, AA shouldn't have an opinion.

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#### **Tradition X**

**By: A. D. | Grande Prairie, Alberta**

***IN my opinion, the minute we come down the stairs on meeting night we shed the cloak of the worries of the week to gather here for one purpose--to help one another. For a whole week, as individuals we have had to make decisions in our businesses, our homes and in other fields. Let us enjoy these few short hours of fellowship with those who understand and with the people who can laugh and have a darned good reason for doing so. Then when we don our coats to go back up the stairs, we are better prepared both mentally and spiritually to cope with an ever demanding life on the outside.***

***I see no reason why an individual, if he is so inclined, may not endorse his own opinions on any number of outside issues as "John Doe, member of Alcoholics Anonymous." That's his baby. He has one mind, and no doubt his own track on which to run it. But I'll bet if we hand-picked five people from our group here who had the same political leanings, religion, racial origin and the same outlook on world affairs and asked them to give a panel discussion on any one subject, they still wouldn't be in complete agreement. So, how could we as a cosmopolitan group even contemplate venturing an opinion or endorsing outside issues? Our only obligation as alcoholics is to ourselves collectively and individually.***

***I think that being anonymous and obscure as a group is all important to prospective new members. To most of us, the realization that we were failures as social drinkers and needed help with our problem was paralyzing enough at first. The knowledge that we could enter a group such as this without having our names tossed around amongst the local cynics was balm to our wounded pride. Now it doesn't matter, but at that time if there had been a mere inkling of an idea that we would be in the public eye as a member of AA, nine chances out of ten we would still be looking for a do-it-yourself plan.***

***So, if we are to continue with our "all for one and one for all" ideals, I believe that we should as a group stay on a self-improvement program of our own making, steer clear of endeavors other than those fundamental to our being here. Remember, united we stand, divided we fall.***

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#### **Unity=Love continued.**

Wonderfully, Tradition One means that I get to sit peacefully in meetings with members who do believe that the newcomer is the most important person in the room and who find that belief important for their sobriety. We're all part of the "we" of AA.

I think it was at my first home group where I first heard "unity, not unanimity." Suddenly it became OK for me to simply be whoever my Higher Power wants me to be, rather than contorting my sense of who I am to fit others' needs, like I had always done before.

For some reason my Higher Power blessed me with a gift for writing poetry. What a gift it is that so many of my fellows have encouraged my writing. I have hopefully gotten to encourage my fellows to do what they love to do in recovery too. Celebrating each other's gifts helps us with growth and gratitude.

Without our Tenth Step, I could not continue to experience the unity in groups I attend or share this unity with others. It shows me that my mind's silent monitoring and correcting of others in meetings just goes back to self-centered fear, activating my character defects of pride and grandiosity. Thoughts of mine, like...She's cute and newly sober—you should really try to work with her one on one...are just lust and codependency, again activated by fear. And what about resentments that suddenly bite at me inside when I've heard a good friend say something for what feels like the hundredth time? Inventory shows me that my disease is attacking because that's a good friend. Love is both a gift and a driver of my recovery and my disease fights that. Unity, for me, is another way of saying love. Without one, I surely wouldn't have the other.

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*Simple, but not easy; a price had to be paid. It meant destruction of self-centeredness. 7P.14 9393*





## RULE 62

### Just askin'

An optimist, a pessimist and an alcoholic walk into a bar. There's a glass of beer filled halfway on the counter. The optimist says, "That beer is half full." The pessimist says, "That beer is half empty." The alcoholic says, "Are you going to finish that?"

The town drunk went to see the doctor. "My whole body hurts," he complained. The drunk put his finger on his left shoulder. "When I touch myself here, it hurts," he whined. Then he put his finger near his heart. "When I touch myself here, it hurts," he said. Then he put his finger on his thigh, moaned and said, "When I touch myself here, it hurts too. No matter where I touch myself, Doc, it hurts something terrible! Please, tell me what's wrong with me"

The doctor replied, "You have a broken finger."

Me: "Hi, my name is Rick and I'm an alcoholic."

Man on other end of the phone:  
"Sir, this not AA, it's Triple A."

Me: "I know. I'm just explaining why my truck's in the lake."

Math Teacher:

"If I have 5 bottles in one hand and 6 in the other hand, what do I have?"

Student:

"A drinking problem."



*Q: What's the difference between a mosquito and an alcoholic?*

*A: The mosquito quits drinking when you slap him!*





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