

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING
SPEAKER



December 14
 Rachelle
 Host group - NNIG Steering Committee
 Speaker at 7:00

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



NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

December 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)

The worst meeting ever

By: ANONYMOUS | OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Just a little over a year ago, I met a man who was living in a treatment center. He was allowed to go to outside meetings after 30 days, and was rather enjoying himself at a very social AA conference. He told me he was quite happy to be living in that facility because he'd been living in the streets for over two years. I could tell he wasn't really that familiar with AA, but he had that newcomer drive and excitement.

Over the next couple of months, I kept running into him at all the district and area meetings. He had gotten truly involved and was in the middle of AA. He told me there were many other people at his treatment center and most of them would never know what AA is really like.

He said nobody else from the treatment center went to the conference and, sadly, he doubted if one single person would ever find out what it was like to be surrounded by so many people who understood the morning terror and madness, and yet were laughing about it. Because he seemed to be so grateful for his sobriety, I wanted to talk to him even more. He told me that the center makes all the residents attend "AA meetings" each day in their large meeting room, but those meetings are run by the residents themselves. He went on to tell me that even though they mean well, they just don't have a clue. I wondered how many people would leave that treatment center thinking AA wouldn't work for them. I made a decision to attend a meeting there the very next week, and so I did.

My first meeting there was far from sensational. In fact, I would be lying if I said anything other than it was the worst meeting I've ever been to. First off, the place was filled with people who looked like they hadn't showered in weeks or months. Everyone and everything smelled. They were wearing clothes that were torn and tattered. The treatment center doubles as a soup kitchen and a cold-weather bed shelter. Many of the residents are just looking for something warm to eat and a dry place to sleep so they can go back out and do more battle the next day. If there were a war on alcoholism, this would indeed be the trenches of the front line.

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

**Recovery
Step Twelve:**

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

Three

**Unity
Tradition Twelve:**

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

Legacies

**Service
Concept Twelve:**

“The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

Concept XII

This Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter “can be readily amended,” these General Warranties — like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions — be changed only by “written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups who respond” in the world! Why? Because “these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves.” The Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other A.A. entities as well. Let us, then, consider these principles one by one: Warranty One: “The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power.” The Seventh Tradition protects us against the accumulation of too much money. So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit contributions from individual members, “we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.” And if we live by Tradition Two — that “our ultimate authority is a loving God” and that “our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern” — then we are safe from perilous power. Warranty Two: “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.” Although many of us as active alcoholics were free spenders, when it comes to supporting “A.A. service overhead, we are apt to turn a bit reluctant.” Yet, in A.A. the cost of the service office is relatively low in terms of the number of groups served, and if the need for support is made clear, the contributions are forthcoming. The Reserve Fund should be one full year’s operating expenses of the GSO and Grapevine. The Reserve Fund comes almost entirely from income from the sale of A.A. literature, which also is used to make up the deficit between group contributions and the cost of group services. Warranty Three: “None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.” This principle is discussed earlier in Concept IV, but “it is so important, we have made it the subject of this Warranty” — a “strong stand against the creation of unqualified authority at any point in our Conference structure. Warranty Four: “That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity.” This Warranty is, on the one hand, “a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and, on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision.” Warranty Five: “That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.” Although practically all other societies and governments find it necessary to punish individual members for violations of their beliefs, principles or laws, Alcoholics Anonymous finds this practice unnecessary. When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. No humanly administered system of penalties is needed. This unique condition is an enormous advantage to us all, one on which we can fully rely and one which we should never abandon by resorting to personal attack and punishment. Of all societies, ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger. For much the same reason, we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self defense. Our experience has shown that, providentially, A.A. has been made exempt from the need to quarrel with anyone, no matter what the provocation. Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the worldwide goodwill which A.A. enjoys, than public contention, no matter how promising the immediate dividends might appear. Some situations which may require Conference consideration are: A.A. may come under “sharp public attack or heavy ridicule” — perhaps “With little or no justification in fact. Our best defense in these situations would be no defense whatever — namely, complete silence at the public level. If the criticism of A.A. is partly or wholly justified, it may be well to acknowledge this privately to the critics — with our thanks.” Public violations of A.A. Traditions. Our own members may try to use the A.A. name for their private purposes. “Aggressive or punitive action, even in this area, must be omitted. Privately, we can inform Tradition-violators that they are out of order. When they persist, we can use such other resources of persuasion as we have. In the long run, though, we shall have to rely mainly on the pressures of A.A. opinion and public opinion.” “Another kind of problem is the severe internal disagreement that comes to unwelcome public attention.” As GSO “is not a police operation,” we can only offer A.A.’s experience as a matter of information. Warranty Six: “That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.” The A.A. Traditions accord the individual member and the A.A. group extraordinary liberties. In fact, we A.A.s probably enjoy more and greater freedoms than any Fellowship in the world. We claim this as no virtue. We know we have to choose conformity to A.A.’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or else face dissolution and death. “Because we set such a high value on our great liberties and cannot conceive that they will need to be limited, we here specially enjoin our General Service Conference to abstain completely from any and all acts of authoritative government which could in any way curtail A.A.’s freedom under God. We expect our Conference always to try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love — one member to another. “Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.”

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

2025 New Years Eve Bash

Wednesday,
December 31 6 till
the party stops!

255 VFWS Historic Ln, Reno, NV

Mocktails & Appetizers Raffle DJ Dancing

Speaker - Don D.

\$20 per Ticket
Casual/Formal
NNIG Event



March 15th 2025
St. Patrick's Day
Cribbage Tournament
Games
Bingo
Speaker
Raffle
Food



OTHER AREA EVENTS

DISTRICT 20 & ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS PRESENTS:

SOBER HOLIDAY DANCE

DEC 13TH
7:00PM LIVE MUSIC BY:
FORGERY
FREE DINNER

THIS IS A FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT! BRING THE KIDS!
PLEASE BRING A DESSERT FOR OUR DESSERT AUCTION

Lassen County Fairgrounds - Jensen Hall - Susanville

Questions? Call Jay S. (530)251-7211 or Jodie G. (530)814-8592

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 "Big 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 to be added to this once-a-month email.

Volunteer Hours: 95.75

Calls into Central Office: 128

- Calls for AA help - 4
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 1
- Meeting information - 27
- Retail / merchandise - 14
- Other 12-step programs - 0
- Events – 31
- New to AA/ Talked with - 3
- Business/Central office- 48
- Visitors – 248 -Dogs- 6
- Texts – 6 Phone calls on the text Phone-3



*Ronda H.
Central Office Manager*



Previous Birthdays

Sharon F. 40 Years
Dave S. 41 Years
September
David 27 Years
Angelica B. 1 Years
Mike H. 29 years
Phil S. 48 Years
August
Dawn K. 15 Years
Linda G. 32 Years
Michael B. 35 Years
July
JoAnne P. 12 Years
Dennis J. 24 Years
June
Paul E. 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
Cindy 35 Years

November 2024

NO Birthdays 



"Your job now is to be at the place where you may be of maximum helpfulness to others, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful." p.102 BB

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

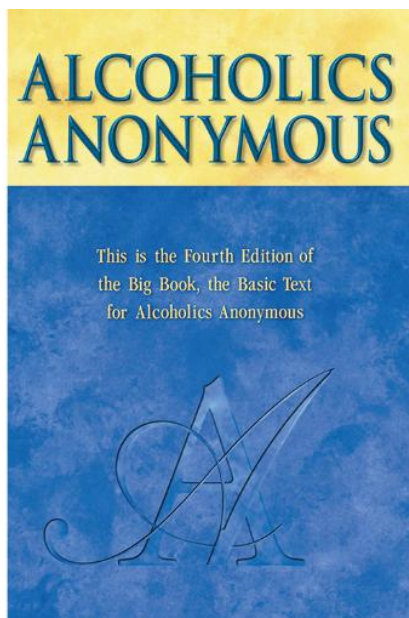
Five N Live
Saturday 5:15 PM
Alano Club
680 River St.
Elko, NV

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

Big Book (full versions only)
\$2 OFF

Brown
Baggers
Discussion
1036 N Main St.
Alturas, 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
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 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 soberos
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: 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.

Twelfth Step Prayer

*Dear God, My spiritual awakening continues to unfold. The help I have received I shall
pass on and give to others, both in and out of the Fellowship. For this opportunity
I am grateful. I pray most humbly to continue walking day by day on the road of spiritual
progress. I pray for the inner strength and wisdom to practice the principles of this way
of life in all I do and say.*

*I need You, my friends, and the Program every hour of each day. This
is a better way to live.*

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2024

Group	November	YTD	Group	November	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	54.32	290.19	A Vision for You		175.00
A Way Home	363.67	1456.36	Happy Hour Reno	1.00	1126.00
Alano Big Book Study			Kindred Spirits		750.00
Alano Brown Baggers		43.91	Kings Beach AA Golden Group		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		800.00	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE	25.00	120.00
Alano Women in Recovery			Minden Language of the Heart		
Back Room Group		332.11	Minden Saturday Night Fever		407.34
Back to Basics Saturday Night		1370.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		448.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		1319.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		119.69
Bishop High Sirra Group		135.00	Minden/Gardnerville Group		199.05
			Mt Rose Big Book Study	75.00	75.00
Caliente AA		19.69	Mt Rose Men's Group	75.00	195.00
Blue Room Group		157.74	Mt Rose Candle Light		338.00
Caring & Sharing in Stead		934.96	Mt Rose Recovery Room		1955.94
Carson Alano Club		382.00	NNIG Business Meeting	48.00	395.50
Carson Early Birds		808.71	Old Time AA Group		116.95
Carson Brown Baggers		590.00	Portola Group	150.00	250.00
Carson City Un Dia a La Vez		293.10	Positive Acceptance Group		1169.10
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting		1566.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		127.50
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		739.25	RTC Almost Heaven		900.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		750.00	RTC Aloha Group		2406.58
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		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	120.00	120.00	RTC Men's Trudgers		483.60
Chester Saturday Night Group		195.30	RTC Monday Night Mens		600.00
Chester Wednesday Women's Serenity			Quincy Fellowship	400.00	400.00
Choices		300.00	RTC New Awakenings Group		958.50
Club 164	9.39	9.39	RTC Not a Glum Lot		6.91
Cornerstone Group	150.00	270.00	RTC Women's Just for Today		242.60
Crazy Drunks			Serenity in the Sierras Campout		1000.00
Dayton Fellowship Hall			Serenity on Sundays		
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62			Steps to Freedom		150.00
Dayton Red Rooster		1411.40	Sisters in Sobriety		119.02
Dayton Sunday Morning		360.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		85.50
Decompression Chamber/online	138.37	986.37	Slide Mountain Serenity		800.55
District 12			South Y Shore Lake Group		180.00
District 14	50.00	500.00	Southside Group	205.54	1700.31
Driars the Nickle	100.00	100.00	Southside Online Group		100.00
District 2	10.00	93.00	Step 1		160.00
District 22	150.00	1226.85	Sunnyside Group		2148.00
District 6			Susanville Fellowship		100.00
Driars Keep It Simple Group		0.50	Tahoe City Fellowship		200.00
Driars Knuckleheads		133.03	The Next Chapter		200.00
Elko			The Rock Group		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
Fallon Silver Lining		106.50	Truckee River Men's Stag		1600.00
Fernley Groups		200.00	Verdi Greener Pastures		200.00
Fireside Group		1318.35	Verdi Meditation		100.00
First Responders		259.00	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	Wednesday Night Beginners Me	137.50	137.50
Grupo Latino Reno	10.00	10.00	Whole in the Ground		600.00
Grupo Accion	10.00	80.00	Whole in the Soul		530.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz		135.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	50.00	470.00
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	152.00	Women's AA Literature		50.98
Grupo Volver A Empezar		40.00	Women's New Beginnings		1608.00
Incline Village Fellowship		96.75	Women's New Harmony		120.00
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio		150.00	Yerington Group		200.00
Inclined to be Sober	96.11	193.61	Young at Heart		310.00
Jamesville Women's Monday Night					
Hispanic State Convention		300.00			
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza		96.00			
Grupo Nueva Esperanza	25.00	35.00			

Total 2473.90 59,106.46



Twelfth Tradition: Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

. . . **On the 12th Tradition**

By: Doc | Portland, Oregon

From the December 1949 Grapevine

Alcoholics Anonymous Traditions admonish us that to preserve harmony and to enhance the survival value of our movement, we should seriously respect the anonymous aspect of the program.

In Main Street America it is more difficult to remain anonymous, but many small town groups have found by trial and error that anonymity should be encouraged at all times.

All too often in groups we find members violating this Tradition, many, no doubt, because of lack of knowledge as to just how important anonymity is to us and why it should be respected.

The common "explosion" one usually confronts when broaching the subject is, "Why should I be ashamed of Alcoholics Anonymous? I'm proud of it, I think all of us should let everybody know we belong, etc., etc." Such a person needs to be enlightened. Personal attitudes are important, of course, but are only a minor factor concerning why we should stay nameless.

Other vital reasons are:

Anonymity is a potent reminder that we are just one among many, an infinitesimal agent of a great power. It has a very substantial spiritual significance, reminding us to respect the common welfare of the movement ahead of our own.

Anonymity stymies self-glorification and insures the other fellow the right to preserve his own identity. Who you are in AA is not important.

Anonymity protects the movement. If a group "wheel-horse" suddenly reverts to a mash diet, as sometimes happens, wraps his car around a telephone pole, makes the newsprint or the "bucket" or both, AA is left unscathed.

Anonymity fortifies us against political invasion and alignment with religious or other movements. Former movements have been destroyed by the invasion of political speakers and alignment with various sectarian organizations. By remaining strictly nameless, we bypass these and all controversial issues such as the wet and dry question and other promotional projects.

Anonymity insures us against members forming small groups, associating personal names with the well-known name, Alcoholics Anonymous, and obtaining credit, loans or gifts for clubs, furnishings, etc., which dangerous procedure has proved disastrous in some

places.

Anonymity discourages members from becoming professionals, charging fees for counseling alcoholics and other services, and prevents personal publicity in all printed material, photographs, radio, television, etc.

Let us all remember that Alcoholics Anonymous is a spiritual entity only. It has nothing to sell and doesn't want to buy anything. It gives away everything and has more for so doing. Alcoholics Anonymous belongs to all alcoholics who have a sincere desire to use its principles. Certainly all of us should feel duty bound to preserve its principles and practice, not only for ourselves, but for the millions of sick alcoholics yet to come. Few of us realized the warmth and the solace of brotherly love until we found this movement. Let us protect our anonymity and for

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AA Grapevine 1949*

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace!

That where there is hatred, I may bring
love.

That where there is wrong, I may bring the
spirit of forgiveness.

That where there is discord, I may bring
harmony.

That where there is error, I may bring truth.

That where there is doubt, I may bring
faith.

That where there is despair, I may bring
hope.

That where there are shadows, I may bring
light.

That where there is sadness, I may bring
joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather to
comfort than to be comforted.

To understand, than to be understood.

To love, than to be loved.

For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.

It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.

It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal
Life.

Book and I am in total shock to say that all 10 of them have continued sobriety.

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Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.

The Worst Meeting Ever *continued.*

The meeting started out with an introduction as an open meeting. We went around the room and introduced ourselves and then proceeded to read all the handouts. This took almost half an hour because the people chosen to read were having such a difficult time with the words. By the time it came to start sharing, half the people had left, half the remaining people were carrying on conversations with themselves, and several had fallen asleep. Every single person in the meeting got up at one point to get coffee or to scrape ice out of a large metal chest while someone was trying to share. There were a lot of distractions.

I asked my Higher Power what he had gotten me into. It was only with his help that I was able to stay for the entire meeting. They closed with the Lord's Prayer. I was never so glad for the ending of a meeting. I had made up my mind to make a beeline out the door. I thought my work there was complete. Little did I know I hadn't even gotten started. As I was making my way toward the door, I was stopped by a little, older guy. He had obviously experienced many hard times. "You look like someone who can help me," he said. He wanted to talk. I thought he was going to ask me for money or a ride or a place to sleep. I was more than slightly reserved. He continued: "I've heard all my life that people can actually get sober from AA. I didn't believe it till about a month ago. Can you help me find a sponsor?" Right then and there, I experienced an overwhelming sense of power that wiped out all those smells, noises and sights. I stopped to talk with him and with a few others I've been doing that for over a year now and I've been asked about a sponsor many times. Several of the men actually asked me to sponsor them, and the first of them just celebrated a year of sobriety. He's been through the first part of the Big Book with me. He's been making his amends and has re-established communication with his son. Every Wednesday night, as I walk into that treatment center, I ask God to remove from me my ego, fear, doubt and stress; that I may have the ability to deliver the program of action as outlined in our basic text; and that I share nothing beyond my experience. In this one short year, I have seen 10 men sit down with their sponsors and study the Big



1 Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2 Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3 Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



4 Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebra-

tions given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



5 Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



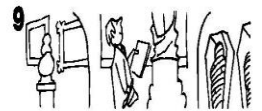
6 If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



7 Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



8 Worship in your own way.



9 Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



10 Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."



11 Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



12 "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

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Happy Holidays



RULE 62

A woman was describing her symptoms to her friend. She was nervous, and apprehensive, couldn't sleep for more than two hours at a stretch, had no appetite, and suffered almost continuously from headaches.

"That's tension," her friend said. "I used to feel like that until I began taking these pills, and now I'm never nervous, or scared, and I sleep eight hours every night, my appetite is wonderful, and I never have a headache any more. Here, take one, it's just a simple tranquilizer, and in ten minutes, you'll feel wonderful."

The other woman shook her head. "Oh, no," she said, "I'm afraid of those things. Aren't they habit-forming?" Her friend laughed. "Of course not, silly," she said, laughing, "not if you take them regularly."

God gave us brains to use

"Brethren," said the man in the pulpit, "I want to preach on 'Liars' today. How many have read the sixty-ninth chapter of Matthew?"

About half the congregation raised their hands.

"You're the ones I want to talk to," said the preacher. "There is no sixty-ninth chapter of Matthew."

"The only thing worse than being unhappy is being happy and not knowing it."

Doc: "I can't quite diagnose your case, but I think it is due to drinking."

Alky: "Okay, Doc. I'll come back later when you're sober."

There was a space capsule in a lonely orbit, with an astronaut attached to it by a lifeline, doing a space walk. He is shown knocking vigorously on the entry hatch while exclaiming furiously, "What do you mean, 'Who's there?'"





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