

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



January 18, 2025

Hunter

Host group – Not a Glum Lot

Speaker at 7:00

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

THE BRACER



Lake Tahoe Bear

NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

January 2025

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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

The Wonder of It

BY: DR. D. G. M. | MONTREAL, QUEBEC

He was a physician who could not heal himself. . . . Then he found AA

I AM A doctor of medicine, an alcoholic, and a member of AA. I was unable to achieve sobriety until I found AA, and only then could I practice medicine with contentment and some small success. Certainly, as a physician I was unable to heal myself, and the various orthodox medical approaches to the problem of alcoholism were destined to fail in my case, or I failed to respond to them to overcome my compulsion and get better.

So I became more and more despondent, and deep in my heart I thought that nothing could help me. The attempts of kind colleagues were very sincere and painstaking, and I think my search for help from them was sincere, too. But somehow we did not achieve what I needed. The emphasis seemed to be wrongly placed, and the search for how to drink like a gentleman and not behave like an alcoholic continued on its now well-recognized course. I was full of resentment and anger, and it seemed to me to be very peculiar that no one could cope with this strange disorder, especially as I possessed, in my opinion, such sterling qualities and had so many attributes of excellence.

The medicine I practiced, I'm afraid, was not of a very good quality. Like most of my kind, I am conscientious and want to do the right thing, but this became more and more difficult because of the characteristics of the practicing alcoholic. To begin with, my health was indifferent; I suffered from sinus trouble, gastroenteritis, nausea, and quite frequent attacks of "the bug that is going around," so that my performance lacked regularity and reliability. Also, the lack of faith in me that this unreliability caused in those who knew me best made me harbor a bitter and burning resentment, so that I became convinced that there was almost a conspiracy against me.

Continue p. 8

A A's

**Recovery
Step One:**

“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.”

Three

**Unity
Tradition One:**

“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.”

Legacies

**Service
Concept One:**

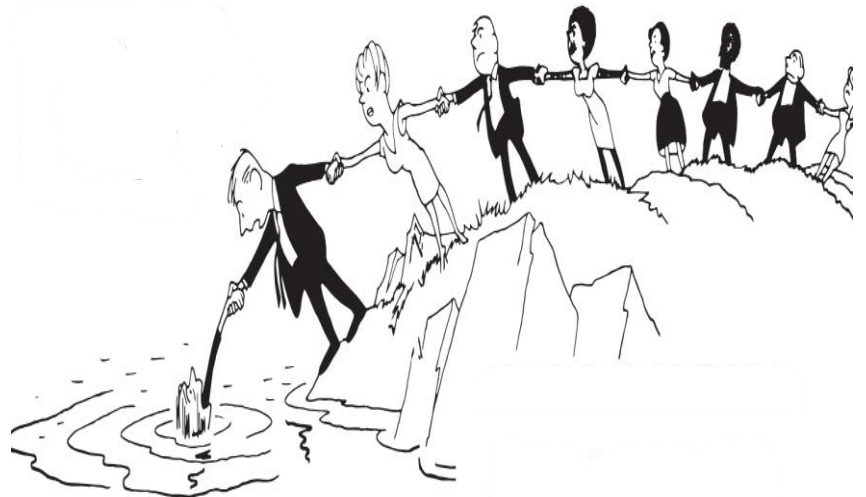
“Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.”

Tradition 1

Our individual sobriety depends on the group. The group depends on us. We soon learn that unless we curb our individual desires and ambitions, we can damage the group.



For the individual to recover, the group and the Fellowship must stick together. We of A.A. need each other to stay sober. Our individual sobriety depends on the group, and the group depends on us. Focusing on what's best for the group and the Fellowship as a whole, we experience the safety, security and unity that comes with being one voice among many. Without unity, the heart of A.A. would cease to beat and we would be left in loneliness once more.



Reprinted from The Twelve Tradition Illustrated and Experience has Taught Us with permission of A.A. World Services

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

ANSWERING SERVICE 12-STEP CALL WORKSHOP

February 15th 2025
11-1pm

We will be talking about the Answering Service and experience for 12 step calls
This will be an entertaining and enjoyable workshop with
LUNCH!!
627 Sunnyside Dr.



Save the Date

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

NNIG Monthly Speaker Meetings
Silver Legacy – 407 North Virginia Street, Reno 89501
Location- Silver Barron Room 1-6



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



January 18, 2025
Hunter M.-Reno, NV
Host Group- Not a Glum Lot

February 8, 2025
Lisel W. -Las Vegas, NV
Host Group- District 16

March 8, 2025
TBD
Host Group-Trudger Men's Group

April 12, 2025
Cory H. – Garden Grove
Host Group- Carson Sand Baggers

NNIG Speaker Chair: Robert S. - 775-247-9677
Need more info call: Central Office - (775) 355-1151
Join us for dinner at Café Central @ ~5 pm with the speaker.

Lost
- Rod G., Turtleford,
Saskatchewan, Canada

Alone in the world,
lost within myself.
There was something missing,
could it be myself?
Was there something wrong,
was I alright?
Couldn't figure it out,
so full of fear, so full of fright.

To heck with it for now,
I'll deal with it later.
But the time never came,
it was never sooner, always later.
My world came crashing down
and drove me into my Hell.
How could I get out,
I could not tell.

Pushed towards A.A.,
I needed quite a shove.
Me asking for help
from the "Power" above.

Enter into the room
and what do I see?
Old buddies, new friends
that welcome me.

Understanding, patience
and love was there too,
I have finally found myself
in the group of you.

Thank you, A.A.

Central office report from Ronda H. January 2025

The book of the month is "As Bill Sees It" \$2 OFF Get yours while supplies last! Pamphlet is "Women in A.A." \$0.45. 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 - 6
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 6
- Meeting information - 18
- Retail / merchandise - 12
- Other 12-step programs - 4
- Events - 9
- New to AA/ Talked with - 7
- Business/Central office- 45
- **Visitors - 239 -Dogs- 1**



Texts - 10

Phone calls on the text Phone-6

*Ronda H.
Central Office Manager*



Previous Birthdays

October

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

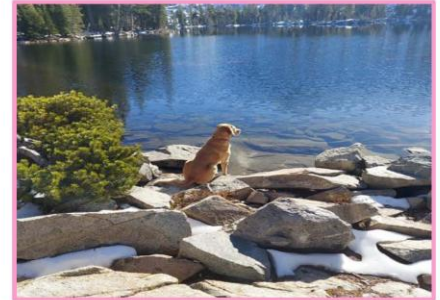
December 2024

Sean S. 35 Years

Cindy 36 Years

Heather L. 7Years

Mystery Person - 37



"In God's economy, nothing is wasted. Though failure, we learn a lesson in humility which is probably needed, painful though it is." Bill W. 1945

Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the A.A. Birthday Club? Sign Up today and be featured in the Bracer Birthday Club section of the Bracer. Show your Support for your NNIG & Central Office, Join the Birthday Club. A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety.

Envelopes available at
Central Office,

NNIG Business Meeting or Intergroup Representatives

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

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

As Bill Sees It

\$2 OFF

Brown
Baggers
Discussion
1036 N Main St.
Albures, CA

SATURDAY NIGHT
FEVER
1631 ESERALDA
PL
GARDNERVILLE NV.

As
Bill Sees It

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

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 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: 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.

First Step Prayer

*I admit I am powerless. I admit that my life
is unmanageable when I try to control it.
Help me this day to understand the true
meaning of powerlessness. Remove from
me all of my denial.*

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2024

Group	December	YTD	Group	December	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	87.76	377.95	A Vision for You		175.00
A Way Home		1456.36	Happy Hour Reno		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	20.00	140.00
Alano Women in Recovery	33.00	33.00	Minden Language of the Heart		
Back Room Group		332.11	Minden Saturday Night Fever		407.34
Back to Basics Saturday Night	144.00	1514.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		448.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		1319.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		119.69
Bishop High Sierra Group	65.78	200.78	Minden/Gardnerville Group	500.91	699.96
Blue Room Group		157.74	Mt Rose Candle Light	250.00	588.00
Caliente AA		19.69	Mt Rose Men's Group		195.00
Caring & Sharing in Stead		934.96	Mt Rose Recovery Room	411.65	2367.59
Carson Alano Club		382.00	NNIG Business Meeting	33.73	429.23
Carson Brown Baggers		590.00	Portola Group		250.00
Carson City Un Dia a La Vez		293.10	Positive Acceptance Group		1169.10
Carson Early Birds		808.71	Old Time AA Group		116.95
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting		1566.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		127.50
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		739.25	RTC Almost Heaven	50.00	950.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		750.00	RTC Aloha Group		2406.58
Carson Men's NO BS Stag	95.00	370.00	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	RTC Men's Trudgers		483.60
Chester Saturday Night Group	199.14	394.44	RTC Monday Night Mens		600.00
Chester Wednesday Women's Serenity			Quincy Fellowship		400.00
Choices	100.00	400.00	RTC New Awakenings Group	0.30	958.80
Club 164		9.39	RTC Not a Glum Lot		6.91
Cornerstone Group		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	661.76	2073.16	Sisters in Sobriety		119.02
Dayton Sunday Morning		360.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		85.50
Decompression Chamber/online	118.95	1105.32	Slide Mountain Serenity		800.55
District 12			South Y Shore Lake Group		180.00
District 14		500.00	Southside Group	161.58	186.89
District 2	8.00	101.00	Step 1		160.00
District 22	150.00	1376.85	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
Driars the Nickle	125.00	225.00	Southside Online Group		100.00
End of the Road Group			The Rock Group		636.09
Eye-Opener		1597.00	The Shop		
Fallon Saturday Grapevine		100.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Fallon Silver Lining		106.50	Truckee Fellowship		48.38
Fernley Groups		200.00	Truckee River Men's Stag		1600.00
Fireside Group	488.63	1806.98	Verdi Greener Pastures		200.00
First Responders		259.00	Verdi Meditation		100.00
Galena Friday Night		50.00	Weekend Warriors		39.78
Genoa Roadside Group			Westwood AA	67.50	67.50
Greenville Group		100.00	Westwood Back to Basics		107.08
Ground Zero		574.80	Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		137.50
Grupo Latino Reno	10.00	20.00	Whole in the Ground		600.00
Grupo Accion	30.00	110.00	Whole in the Soul		530.00
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza		96.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	50.00	530.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz	50.00	185.00	Women's AA Literature		50.98
Grupo Nueva Esperanza	12.00	47.00	Yerington Group		200.00
Grupo Solo Por Hoy		152.00	Women's New Beginnings		1608.00
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	100.00	250.00	Women's New Harmony		120.00
Grupo Volver A Empezar		40.00	Young at Heart		310.00
Hispanic State Convention		300.00	Mt Rose Big Book Study		75.00
Incline Village Fellowship		96.75			
Inclined to be Sober		193.61			
			Total	4024.69	61,466.15

The Twelve Concepts of AA were a mystery to me for a long time in recovery. They were not a very compelling mystery since they were seldom referred to at meetings I attended. An oversimplified notion of service was part of my early training in sobriety; concepts of world service that provide principles like "the right of decision," the importance of hearing minority opinions, and "the right of appeal" were not brought to my attention. Only gradually did I notice how the third side of the triangle of recovery, unity, and service was overlooked.

It is not surprising that I have been a slow learner in recovery. Even those window shades with AA's Steps and Traditions were off-putting to me at my first meetings. This drunk had eschewed belief systems any more subtle than the Ten Commandments. I was raised in a nonreligious household and developed a strong sense of self-sufficiency and independence. So, it was not surprising then that, for me, a practical sense of what produces instant gratification provided a system adequate for living. Or so it seemed, for a couple of decades of serious drinking.

Full of negative attitudes, distorted instincts, distrust, superstitions, and low self-esteem doing nearly constant battle with inflated self-worth, I was primed for a harsh bottoming out from years of daily drinking. Fortunately, my resistance to help had only a few days to fortify itself before I was dragged to my first meeting. As I sat there quaking in dread and confusion, listening to three speakers share their stories, one after another, of how it was, what happened, and what it was like now, I underwent a spiritual transformation. Hope was instilled where before there had been only an empty place deep within. By the end of the meeting, the outlines on the window shade, the brightly-lit room, and the many strangers were no longer threatening. They held the promise of support in whatever might lie ahead. They held the promise of recovery.

In the next few weeks, while coming out of the fog of long-term addiction, I heard many speakers tell of recovery in the narrative of their stories. When I heard reference made to Steps as they were functioning in sober living, I would look at the shade to ponder the spiritual principles involved. Soon I was familiar with the phrase "these are the Steps we took to recover" and I looked at recent experience to see if the Step referred to was working yet in my new life. Often it was and I came to know the Steps of recovery.

Now and then, in the first few years of attending meetings, I found myself in a meeting whose focus was not on recovery but concerned with matters of running the meeting, housekeeping, and all sorts of details that evoked discussions--sometimes heated. There had been ample opportunity to notice that those who attended meetings had little in common other than their addiction to alcohol and a desire not to drink by sharing experience, strength, and hope. With such incredible racial, educational, ethnic, and cultural diversity, not to mention the variety of temperaments and individual neuroses, we should never have been able to sit together and peacefully mediate so broad a

range of opinions as we brought to bear on each topic on the agenda. And yet, at each of these meetings, a group conscience emerged that addressed our common welfare. When the meeting would come to logger-heads, someone with experience would focus attention on the Tradition whose principles applied to the matter at hand. I came to see that when two or more people were involved and affected, AA has Traditions of unity.

From my first encounter with AA, I was encouraged to pick up after myself and to assist in making the meetings possible. It was the rare meeting that had hired help, so it was essential that each member contribute service to ensure the smooth running of the meeting. And as I gained familiarity with the Steps of recovery, the principle of carrying the message and, eventually, of the many ways of doing this in a spirit of anonymity, became an important service that enriched and insured my own sobriety.

Since volunteer service had not been a part of my life in active alcoholism, chairing meetings, answering telephones at our Intergroup office, and keeping commitments to go outside of AA to do public information speaking when asked--these were a major change in my priorities and provided important exercises in character building. I was beginning to understand AA's third legacy of service.

Not until I was sober for a decade, with considerable experience in AA service, did I become General Service Representative (GSR) for my home group. It was then that I began to notice the Twelve Concepts for World Service. If the Steps and Traditions had been off-putting to me when I was first sober, the Concepts were doubly so now. The spiritual principles that I saw embodied in them were familiar and to some degree already functioning in my sobriety. It was the formal, business-like sound of them that seemed to place them outside of day-to-day sober living. Bill W. wrote them out of his long experience as an analyst of business structures and his nearly twenty-five years of involvement in various capacities with the running of the corporate structure of AA. Then in 1962, the General Service Conference accepted the Concepts as part of the Third Legacy of Service. But AA as a whole has never really gotten that message. While recovery and unity are conscious elements in the process of living sober, the Concepts remain the domain of trusted servants in the general service structure. Many members, however, are curious about this important omission and are ready to add this leg of the triangle to their program. Although Bill entitled his writings Twelve Concepts for World Service, many of us have found the Concepts essential in our service activities whether we think them world in scale or not.

Concept I contains the notion of the collective conscience of our Fellowship to augment our group conscience and our common welfare. These are essential to assuming final responsibility for and ultimate authority in making support available to groups through publishing and other services necessary to passing our message on.

In Concept II, we AAs entrust the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole society to the General Service Conference through our elected area delegates.

The traditional right of decision is outlined in Concept III as a spiritual principle to assume the means of creating and maintaining a working relationship amongst us members. We cannot force anyone to participate actively in the decision-making process, but the right must be there or we fail to work together. This right of participation assumes that minority opinions are heard and considered, that a majority will not dictate decisions, and that voting blocks will be discouraged. And when all is said and done, the right of appeal, as described in Concept V, ought to prevail with personal grievances carefully considered.

Concepts VI through VIII describe the corporate structure and relationship amongst the Trustees, the General Service Board, and the General Service Conference, which should operate in such a way that the business of AA and the spirit-led work of our members inform one another at each step of any activity of our Society.

In a fellowship that has an actual spirit of democracy, where all members are peers, and there is no authority, Concept IX reminds us of the necessity of good service leadership at all levels. Our sound and appropriate ways of choosing leaders and adhering to timely rotation have served us well.

Concept X challenges our ability to match service responsibility with equal authority so that a trusted servant can fulfill the well-defined tasks expected of that member. It is always important to carefully select members of committees, elected officers, or any other doing the work of AA so that we have the best qualified.

Our Twelfth Step speaks of practicing these principles in all our affairs while our Twelfth Tradition reminds us to place principles before personalities. In the one case, the principles referred to are those of recovery as outlined in the Steps; in the other the principles of unity, as presented in the Traditions. Yet, in pondering both practicing the principles and principles before personalities, there emerges a further set that are outlined in Concept XII in the very specific form referred to as warranties. They have proved to be spirit-inspired standards that are evident in most service activities in the Fellowship. We should maintain the spirit of AA tradition: by avoiding the concentration of perilous wealth or power; by maintaining sufficient operating funds and prudent reserves; by declining to create positions of unqualified authority over others; by reaching decisions through discussion, vote, and substantial unanimity; by refusing to engage in personal punishment or incitement to personal controversy; by avoiding acts of government; by always remaining democratic in thought and action.

As symbolized by the triangle in the circle of Fellowship, the gifts bestowed on us recovering alcoholics known as the three Legacies--the Steps of *recovery*, the Traditions of *unity* and the Concepts of *service*--have proved to be invaluable. For these I'm grateful.

It was at this point that contact was made with AA and a member came to visit me. Between my asking for him and his actually turning up, my health had improved greatly, so that when I did see him I prepared to give him the benefit of a medical man's opinion on alcoholism--professional, psychological, and metaphysical. I thought how lucky he was, as a member of the Fellowship that I had heard about, to be able to have an opportunity to learn from so wise a person as myself. I was sure he would not mind my taking a beer while I talked, since I had had nothing all day and he would, of course, not realize that the beer was spiked.

So, seated in my armchair, with my drink by my side, I prepared to deliver my lecture. It was to be amusing as well as instructive, since I was rather lonely and none of my immediate family or friends seemed interested in my theories. The man from AA stayed an almost insultingly short time, put on his coat, and prepared to leave. His last words were simplicity itself. He said, "If you ever decide you want to stop drinking, we will help you," and he vanished into the night, and I returned to my lonely reverie.

That was all. I had to want to stop. That was the price, those were the terms. A week later I wanted to stop more than anything in the world, and I phoned again, full of sickness and fear. Back he came, this time to stay hour after weary hour, just so long as I continued to want to stop. The story from then on to our first meeting and its impact is the same as in other cases often told and, God willing, often still to be told.

Now, a few years later, it all seems absurdly simple. You have to want this more than anything else--and it will come. It will do for you what it did for me, but only on those terms and at that price. Why and how it works do not really matter; the only important fact is that it does. Alcoholism is a destructive and evil thing, and the AA life for me is full of laughter and light. I hope we never learn how it really works. That would take away from the wonder of it all.



RULE 62

A man crawled out from under a pier once and staggered down the beach checking bottles for a drink...bottle after bottle turned up empty...finally he got one and pulled the plug and out popped a genie...the genie says, "Man, I have been in there 3500 years, thanks for letting me out, you now get two wishes."



"I want a bottle of wine that never runs dry proclaimed the man".
Poof! In his hands was the everlasting bottle of wine. He took a big slug and the bottle refilled itself.
"Wow", he said!
"And the second wish", asked the genie.....

He thought for one moment and asked, "hey genie, you got another bottle of wine just like this one?"

Me: is this the helpline for alcoholics?
'Yes. It is.'
Me: So how do I make a mojito?



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

Yes, it is "5 o'clock somewhere", but it also happens to be "7pm A.A. meeting in church basement somewhere".

Christopher Columbus
must have been an alcoholic;
He didn't know where
he was going
He didn't know where he was
when he got there
He talked a woman into
paying for it.





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