

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



February 8, 2025  
Lisel W.  
Host group – District 16  
Speaker at 7:00

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

## THE BRACER



## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

### February 2025

Tradition 2	2
Events	3
Book of the Month	4
Showcase Meetings and more	4
Service Opportunities	5
Group Contributions	6
A.A. 1951	7
The Heart Has Its Reason Continued	8
Rule 62	9

#### 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 HEART HAS IT'S REASON***

**BY: CHARLEY K. | OLYMPIA, WASH.**

**FROM A SECULAR CHILDHOOD IN KANSAS TO A SOBER LIFE OF SPIRITUAL AWARENESS WAS NOT AS FAR AS IT SEEMED**

I grew up in a family of heathens in Kansas, the buckle on the Bible belt. Both my parents came from poor families and they barely drank. They both worked; Dad was a doctor and Mom stayed home and kept house and took care of the kids.

We weren't religious at all. I can still see my mother sitting at the dinner table, smoking a cigarette and discussing an errant cousin who had started going to church monthly. "Got religion," she said, tapping the side of her head.

Religion to us was a sign of mental instability, even though I went off to a mental hospital when I was 24 and stayed a long time. Neither religion nor spirituality was broached as any kind of solution in that place.

When I got out of the mental hospital and finished college, I'd get up in the morning and walk outside to use the bathroom (we lived on a farm) and I'd give God the finger and say unkind words to go with it.

I stumbled along in my life. I married happily, thankfully, and we had children. My wife and I wondered what we would do about church. "Other kids go to church on Sunday," one of our kids said. "Why don't we?" We started going as a family and eventually joined a very secular fellowship. We liked the people there. No beliefs about religion or spirituality were really required or even seriously suggested of us and we were fine with that. Once when one of the Sunday talks discussed a belief in God, I stood up during the question session and announced that God did not exist but if he did, I would punch him in the nose.

# A A's

## Recovery Step Two:

“Come to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

# Three

## Unity Tradition Two:

“For our group there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern .”

# Legacies

## Service Concept Two:

“The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly practical purpose , the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs .”

## Tradition 2

“Now that I've been elected Secretary, I'll show this group some real leadership!”



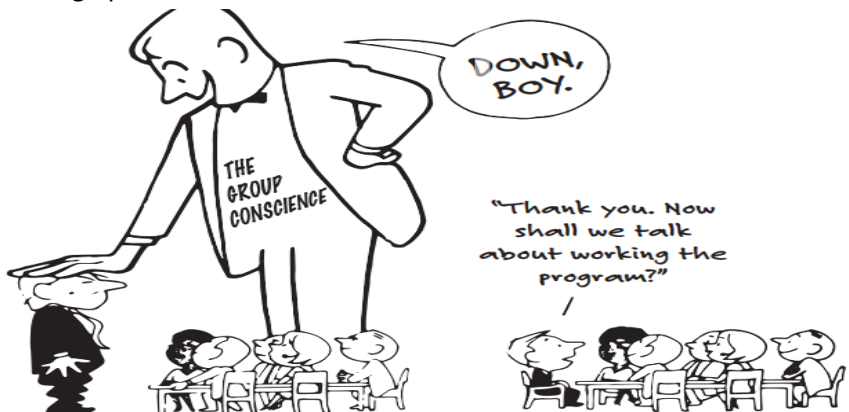
“There's only one way to do it and I'll tell you what it is. . .”



“... Furthermore, we'll take our money and establish a fund. . . I'll manage it. . .”



A.A. is both a democracy and, in Bill W.'s words, “a benign anarchy.” A group elects its own officers — who have no power to order anybody to do anything. In most groups, most of the slate rotates out of office at the end of six months, and new officers are elected. If a group wants to be a part of the whole A.A. service structure, it elects a GSR (general service representative, with a two-year term). GSRs elect area committee members and then join them in electing a delegate from their area to the annual General Service Conference. The Conference is about the closest approximation of a government that A.A. has; it produces opinions on important matters of policy; it approves the choice of some trustee nominees for the General Service Board and directly elects others. But neither the Conference nor the board can give orders to any group or member. Then who's in charge around here? A.A. is a spiritual movement, and so the “ultimate authority” is the spiritual concept of the “group conscience.” Its voice is heard when a well-informed group gathers to arrive at a decision. The result rests on more than arithmetic, a “yes” and “no” count. Minority ideas get thoughtful attention. What about that annoying character who's always sure she's right. If she's wrong, then she will — if she remembers the First Tradition as well as the Second — go along with the decision of the group conscience. Does this notion seem too cloudy? Let's think back to our first meetings. The presence we newcomers felt in those rooms was the same as the group conscience. And it was real — welcoming us in, setting up no barriers of rules....



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](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 & INTERGROUP

## ANSWERING SERVICE 12-STEP CALL WORKSHOP

February 15<sup>th</sup> 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.



**St. Patrick's Day Celebration**  
Neil Rd rzeration Center  
3925 Neil Rd, Reno  
March 15th 2025  
11-3pm

**Cribbage Tournament 11am**  
**Games**  
**Bingo 12:00**  
**Speaker 2 pm**  
**Raffle After Speaker**  
**Food 1-2pm**  
**Potluck - Desserts**  
**OR Salads**

**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



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

**March 8, 2025**  
**Larry B. – Las Vegas, NV**  
**Host Group-Trudger Men's Group**

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

**May 10, 2025**  
**John L. – Las Vegas, NV**  
**Host Group - TBD**

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.

### OTHER A.A. EVENTS

**Unlock the Fun & Power of Participation**  
Engage with Area Conference Committees

**Date:** Saturday, February 22nd, 2025  
**Time:** 2:00 PM

Discover the Importance of Area Conference Committees (ACCs)

- **What are ACCs?**  
Learn about the various committees and your role in informing the AA members that you serve and making their group conscience known to our Delegate.
- **Why Participate?**  
You can make a difference. You are the link in the chain that connects the AA members and their home groups to the Area Delegate and General Service Office (GSO).

**Workshop Highlights:**

- In-depth overview of committee functions
- Benefits of participation
- How to make the most of your experience
- Q&A session with committee members

**Zoom Code:**  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85660118528?pwd=kBbm7Ryzm3HlPyVHQ1gxogouj4FXL1>  
Meeting ID: 856 6011 8528  
Passcode: goteam

Don't miss this opportunity to get involved and make a difference!  
For more information, contact us at [AlternateDelegate@NevadaArea42.org](mailto:AlternateDelegate@NevadaArea42.org)

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

## Central office report from Ronda H. January 2025

The book of the month is “Dr Bob and the Good Old Timers or Pass it On” \$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](mailto:officemanager@nnig.org) to be added to this once-a-month email.

Volunteer Hours: 112

Calls into Central Office: 128

- Calls for AA help - 6
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 0
- Meeting information - 46
- Retail / merchandise - 16
- Other 12-step programs - 3
- Events – 5
- New to AA/ Talked with - 3
- Business/Central office- 64
- **Visitors – 231 -Dogs- 5**



**Texts – 9**

**Phone calls on the text Phone-2**

*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

Joyanne 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,

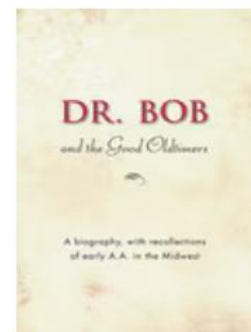
NNIG Business Meeting or Intergroup Representatives

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

**Southside**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**Noon**  
**780 Del Monte**  
**Ln, Reno NV**

AA History Books

**\$2 OFF**



**Brown**  
**Baggers**  
**Discussion**  
**7036 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  
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

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 servicio 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](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.

## Second Step Prayer

*I pray for an open mind so I may come to  
believe in a Power greater than myself.*

*I pray for humility and the continued  
opportunity to increase my faith. I don't  
want to be crazy anymore.*

### NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2025

Group	January	YTD	Group	January	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	48.60	48.60	A Vision for You		
A Way Home			Happy Hour Reno	350.00	350.00
Alano Big Book Study			Kindred Spirits		
Alano Brown Baggers			Kings Beach AA Golden Group		
Alano C ST. Discussion			Lone Pine Group		
Alano Jaywalkers			McGill NV Freedom Group		
Alano Open Heart Open Mind			Mid-Day Group ON-LINE	25.00	25.00
Alano Sunshine Group			Mindeb Language of the Heart	100.00	100.00
Back Room Group			Minden Saturday Night Fever		
Back to Basics Saturday Night			Minden Stephanie Way Group		
Beginners are Winners On-Line Gro	291.00	291.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		
Bishop High Sierra Group			Minden/Gardnerville Group		
Blue Room Group			Mt Rose Big Book Study		
Buena Vista Group	200.00	200.00	Mt Rose Candle Light		
Caliente AA			Mt Rose Men's Group		
Caring & Sharing in Stead	142.41	142.41	Mt Rose Recovery Room	121.48	121.48
Carson After Shifters	283.70	183.70	NNIG Business Meeting	65.00	65.00
Carson Alano Club			Old Time AA Group	67.79	67.79
Carson Brown Baggers	122.00	122.00	Our Common Welfare	5.40	5.40
Carson Early Birds			Portola Group		
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting	231.22	231.22	Positive Acceptance Group		
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free	200.00	200.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group	60.00	60.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's	146.33	146.33	Quincy Fellowship		
Carson Men's NO BS Stag			RTC Almost Heaven	100.00	100.00
Carson Sandbaggers			RTC Aloha Group	409.00	409.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Beginners are Winners	1916.00	1916.00
Chester Fellowship			RTC How We Stay Stopped		
Chester Saturday Night Group			RTC Little Rascals		
Choices	200.00	200.00	RTC Men's Trudgers	194.98	194.98
Club 164			RTC Monday Night Mens		
Cornerstone Group			RTC New Awakenings Group	137.58	137.58
Dayton Red Rooster			RTC Not a Glum Lot		
Dayton Sunday Morning	572.00	572.00	RTC Women's Just for Today	256.22	256.22
Decompression Chamber/online	110.63	110.63	Serenity in the Sierras Campout		
District 14	100.00	100.00	Sisters in Sobriety	200.24	200.24
District 2	8.00	8.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS	74.46	74.46
District 22	150.00	150.00	Slide Mountain Serenity		
District 6			South Y Shore Lake Group		
Driars Keep It Simple Group			Southside Group	200.20	200.20
Driars Knuckleheads			Southside Online Group		
Driars the Nickle	150.00	150.00	Step 1		
End of the Road Group			Steps to Freedom		
Eye-Opener	1176.00	1176.00	Sunnyside Group	785.00	785.00
Fallon Saturday Grapevine			Susanville Fellowship		
Fallon Silver Lining			Tahoe City Fellowship		
Fernley Groups	200.00	200.00	The Next Chapter		
Fireside Group			The Rock Group	205.00	205.00
First Responders			The Shop	300.00	300.00
Galena Friday Night	200.00	200.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Genoa Roadside Group			Truckee Fellowship	53.82	53.82
Greenville Group	50.00	50.00	Truckee River Men's Stag	500.00	500.00
Ground Zero	500.00	500.00	Verdi Greener Pastures		
Grupo Latino Reno	10.00	10.00	Verdi Meditation		
Grupo Accion	20.00	20.00	Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza	30.00	30.00	Weekend Warriors		
Grupo La Nueva Luz	10.00	10.00	Westwood AA		
Grupo Nueva Esperanza			Westwood Back to Basics		
Grupo Nueva Vida	10.00	10.00	Whole in the Ground		
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	20.00	Whole in the Soul		
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	50.00	50.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	60.00	60.00
Grupo Volver A Empezar			Women's AA Literature		
Incline Village Fellowship			Women's New Beginnings	414.00	414.00
Inclined to be Sober	97.36	97.36	Women's New Harmony		
Lone Pine Group	225.00	225.00	Yerington Group		
Lovelock AA	20.00	20.00	Young at Heart	80.00	80.00

**Total**    12255.42    12,155.42



January 1952

## **Milestones for Millions Who Do Not Yet Know. . . .**

### **1951--A GRAPEVINE NEWS SUMMARY....**

THIS was a year of hope and help from an awakening lay public for the alcoholic. The calendar year that has just closed contained momentous news about alcoholism for non-alcoholics. And for Alcoholics Anonymous, 1951 was a year of growth in stature, in numbers present and accounted for.

Inside AA, the box score as of the old year's closing was:

Total Membership. . . . 130,000

Total AA groups. . . . . 4,480

Groups in hospitals. . . . . 112

Groups in prisons. . . . . 79

Other Countries with AA. . . 38

Inside AA, the year's outstanding developments included assets of inventory ranging from the Lasker Award and the first General Service Conference to the final bit of business just before midnight, December 31st, 1951. . . a Twelfth Step call made by a total of two AAs from one group to one person who did not yet know. . .

Inside AA, the group and state selection of delegates to the first panel of the General Service Conference was a milestone in orderliness and in enthusiasm in a common course of action. It was the emergence from areas of conflict over affairs within groups to an area of constructive concern over an entire fellowship and its future.

Outside AA, 1951 was a year of light. . . of probing new rays from many searchlights into the darkness of people, those friends and relatives and employees and the public spectacles, "who drink too much."

In the medical field there were new beams exploring the dark. A special subcommittee of the American Medical Association issued, in June, a first general statement to physicians accepting responsibility of the problems of alcoholism. In September, 1951, doctors of medicine and psychiatry from six nations, as an intergovernmental health agency of the United Nations, issued their joint report on "recognition of alcoholism as a public health problem."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Antabuse for general use by American physicians, limiting it to sale by prescription only. A United Press report tersely remarked "Antabuse, alone, is no 'cure' ". The National Research Council assigned U.S. government grants for a two-year study of the problems of alcohol. Reports in 1951 included an announcement of direct physical tie-in between emotions and alcohol as discovered by Dr. Oskar

Diethelm of Payne-Whitney Psychiatric Clinic in New York. A Research Council project at the University of Texas suspects, that alcoholics have inborn deficiencies in body chemistry. Most medical workers went on believing that Dr. Roger Williams' vitamin treatment gets at the effect, rather than the cause of alcoholism. Cortical hormones--ACTH, cortisone and adrenal cortical extract (ACE) showed promise in preventing delirium tremens, but no new effectiveness in rehabilitating the chronic alcoholic.

Last year marked new steps by legislative bodies and new legal concepts that alcoholism, the disease, needed arresting and those funds used to arrest and jail alcoholics might be used more profitably. By year's end, 39 states had legalized centers for information and rehabilitation. The dry state of Mississippi opened a \$750,000, 200-bed, alcoholic ward.

Industry saw many more plants setting up special programs to reclaim alcoholic workers and aid the manpower shortage by cutting down absenteeism from "Monday morning colds." One county in an eastern state made news when every general hospital within the county began to accept patients on the diagnosis "chronic alcoholism." In Buffalo, New York, the Blue Cross decided to continue payments for all admissions of alcoholics.

There were debuts in 1951 of new mutual help societies using the word "anonymous." Organizational progress was announced by "Gamblers Anonymous" and a Chicago meeting of "Divorcees Anonymous" proclaimed chapters in six cities.

In November, 1951, in the midst of world strife, Bruce Barton suggested a more serious society. Pointing to the recovery of an alcoholic friend through AA, Barton wrote in his daily column: "Human nature is pretty much the same, whether in men or in nations. I just wonder if the way out for Europe isn't for its people to enroll themselves in Europeans Anonymous."

It was a year of widened education, broadened horizons for so many. AA looked on the passing scene outside. . . but with a new year-beginning, the first of the Twelve Traditions and its emphasis on growth within AA took on new meaning. . . "our common welfare should come first."

While even church bodies asked AA if its program would work "to aid and comfort non-drinkers," one old timer in AA gave 1951 a short valedictory.

"We don't save souls," he said. "AA just wrings them out!"

*Copyright© The AA Grapevine, Inc 1952  
Reprinted with permission*

***If you're afraid, do it afraid.***

Eventually not everything went well at home. We had money problems because of my grandiose business ineptitude. I also had personal problems I couldn't manage. A son became a serious drinker and when he got out of the rehab the counselor suggested we take him to AA. We really didn't know a thing about AA, but my wife and I—both pretty heavy drinkers by then—took him to a meeting and saw what it was like.

I loved AA from the beginning—the friendliness, the laughter, the talk, the acceptance—and so we went every night. We stopped drinking. I felt it would be disloyal to betray these people by drinking again.

I got a sponsor and after a few weeks he said something about God. I took what he said home and thought that I might need to quit AA because I did not like having religion shoved down my throat. When I discussed this dilemma with my sponsor, he just shrugged and said, "It's just a Higher Power, that's all."

Honestly, Higher Power sounded to me like a good name for a drink! And "God of my understanding," which I made into an acronym GOMU, sounded like some kind of science-fiction creature that might whirl in from outer space. My patient sponsor laughed at this and said, "Well, to me God comes as a voice in my head." So I tried that a little. One of the first things the voice said was, "Why not call God, God?"

By this time, I'd gone to hundreds of meetings that always ended with everyone holding hands and saying the Lord's Prayer. I accepted it easily enough. But actually having a God? Whoa, that was radical stuff. If I called my Higher Power God, then people would think I was just like them. But then that pesky voice in my head said, Well, Charley, isn't it about time you tried to be like other people? Normal maybe? Having spent all these years thinking of myself as a weirdo and a goofball, I thought, OK, I'll try it. I started getting up in the morning and saluting (I'm a veteran) and saying, "Good morning, God!" I pictured God as my commanding officer. This worked pretty well.

I've been sober in AA now 10 years and I've grown in a lot of ways. I pray every now and then when I think of it. I also started writing a little prayer in the morning in my journal, but that sometimes seems a little dry and formal.

After 45 years on the farm in Kansas, we moved. I got a new home group, and they didn't say the Lord's Prayer at the end of the meeting. They said something I thought was kind of lame. It was the "Responsibility Declaration." But I was glad for it, actually. It relieved me of the "burden of religion," as I called it.

But then one evening we went to a different meeting in town and at the end everyone held hands and said the Lord's Prayer. To my surprise, my heart leapt. As we started saying this ancient prayer, I began tearing up. It was a little embarrassing, but it was then that I realized that this old saying by a French philosopher, "The heart has its reasons which reason knows not" was true. I knew then that God had done for me what I could not do for myself. I came, I came to and came to believe

Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc 2021  
Reprinted with permission

"Then I woke up. I had to admit that A.A. showed results, prodigious results. I saw that my attitude regarding these had been anything but scientific. It wasn't A.A. that had the closed mind it was me. The minute I stopped arguing and, I could begin to see and feel. Right there, Steps Two gently and very gradually begun to infiltrate my life. I can't say upon what occasion or upon what day I came to believe in a power greater than Myself, but I certainly have that believe now. To acquire it, I had only to stop fighting and practice the rest of A.A.'s program as enthusiastically as I could."

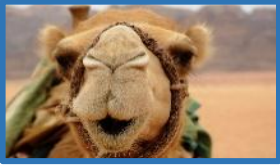
12X12 P. 27



**DON'T BE UPSET  
BY THE  
RESULTS YOU  
DIDN'T GET  
WITH THE WORK  
YOU  
DIDN'T DO**







## RULE 62

A guy stumbles through the front door of a bar, ambles up to the bartender and orders a beer. The bartender looks at the drunk man and says, "I'm sorry sir, but I can't serve you...you've already had too much to drink." The guy swears and walks out of the bar.

Five minutes later the guy comes flying through the side door of the bar, and yells for a beer. Again the bartender says, "I'm sorry, sir...but I can't serve you...you've already had too much to drink!"

Ten minutes later, the same guy comes barrel-assing through the back door of the bar, storms up to the bartender, and demands a beer. Again, the bartender says to the man... "I'm really sorry, sir, but you've had too much to drink...you're going to have to leave!" The guy looks quizzically at the bartender and says finally, "My God, man... How many bars do you work at?!"

Newcomer: My wife told me I have two major character defects.

Sponsor: Really? What are they?

Newcomer: She says I don't listen and something else.

## Looking for work



A newcomer had it drilled into her by her sponsor that she had to be absolutely honest in everything she did. She took this to heart when she went on a job interview.

Interviewer: "What would you say is your biggest character defect?"

Newcomer: "My honesty."

Interviewer: "Well, I don't think honesty is a problem."

Newcomer: "I don't give a damn what you think."

***You know two AAs are on a second date when you see the moving van in the driveway.***





Scan here to go to the website


Return Service Requested  
NNIG Intergroup Office  
436 S. Rock Blvd.  
Sparks, NV 89431

THE BRACER SUBSCRIPTION WOULD MAKE A FANTASTIC GIFT!  
THIS IS ALSO A GOOD TIME TO UPDATE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION! USE THE SUBSCRIPTION FORM BELOW!

**5** 2023 FAITHFUL FIVER CLUB

Joanne P. Linda G. Tom E.  
Paul E. Skip P.  
John L. Tom E.  
Ann G. Deanna S.  
Carl H. Dawn T.  
Barb P. Ron T. Paul M.  
William F. Cheryl Z.

We are members of Alcoholics Anonymous that want the hand of God always to be there in Northern Area 42 Community with Central Office Services It's Easy to Join!  
Use a Check or Credit Card to pay monthly, or one time.  
Easy ways to contribute- pay in person at the office (so we can see your pretty face) mail, online at [nnig.org](http://nnig.org) or phone Central Office for a one time card charge over the phone. \$5.00 per month or \$60.00 per year!  
This membership directly supports 12 step work in Northern Area 42. Group Services and Central Office Operations.



**NNIG BRACER SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation for Electronic Version \_\_\_\_\_  
I cannot send a donation at this time but I would still like to receive the BRACER electronically \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15 One Year (Suggested) - Paper Version**  
**\$7 Yearly Contribution (Suggested) - Electronic Version**  
Email us at [nnigbracer@gmail.com](mailto:nnigbracer@gmail.com) to sign up for your Electronic Version of the BRACER.

The BRACER  
NNIG Intergroup Office  
436 S. Rock Blvd.  
Sparks, NV 89431  
[www.nnig.org](http://www.nnig.org)