

May 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

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Web Site/Meeting Schedule: nnig.org

The Bracer: nnigbracer@gmail.com

THE BRACER



Winnemucca Lake Basin Petroglyphs

NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

Interview with an Alcoholic

DENNY H.

Could you introduce yourself?

Yeah, my name is Denny H. and I am an alcoholic. My drinking was primarily as a salesman in San Francisco. I drank beer through high school. Then I went into the army. I did a lot of drinking there and but no, I was not drinking alcoholically. But that's where it started in San Francisco. I got sober in Pleasanton, CA September 21st, 1976.

What was your first meeting?

It happened at the Franklin Savings and Loan building in downtown Pleasanton, and I went to that meeting because my wife said if I don't quit drinking, she was going to leave me. I thought, oh my God, that's where we were as far as our marriage and what was going on. It was kind of a sad state of affairs. Thank God that I found AA that's all I can tell you. We now been married 62 years. We were high school sweethearts. My first impression was the people that I met at that meeting in Pleasanton were some really, really nice people, IBM, sales, Pan American, Lawrence Livermore, Sandia Corporation. All of them had suits and ties a couple of them brought their wives with them, they were drinking partners anyway. That was very interesting, but really nice people and I went there with the idea that I'll just go to this meeting and just see what's going on. Then I'm going to tell my wife I went to your damn AA meeting. I didn't mention that she was going to the other side, al-anon.

These people had a great message and the message I heard at that very first meeting. It's the first drink that gets us drunk and you've got to keep coming back, if you do not come back, most likely you are going to die from alcoholism. That was the message they gave me. Scared the crap out of me. Nothing hard to do. Although I had a really hard time with the fourth step. I really did. I kept putting it off.

A A's

Recovery Step Five:

"Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

Three

Unity Tradition Five:

"Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Legacies

Service

"Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered..."

Every newcomer learns (some of us the hard way) that the business of staying sober must have top priority. If we fail at that, we can't succeed at anything else. The Fifth Tradition tells us that groups should remember their "one primary purpose."

Often, unthinking enthusiasm puts a group off the main track. One, for instance, offered an "expanded A.A. program" that included helping newcomers to find jobs. Tradition Five doesn't frown on the individual A.A. who tells another about a good opening. But when the group turns itself into an employment agency, newcomers may get confused about their primary purpose. A.A.'s function is to help them get sober — then they can find work for themselves.

Using discretion, a member may lend a few dollars needed for a meal or a hotel room, or may even invite a broke alcoholic to be a temporary houseguest. But the A.A. group as a whole is not a friendly finance company, nor a welfare department, nor a housing bureau.

Even when acting on their own, as individual members, A.A. lay people certainly shouldn't award themselves honorary medical degrees and hand out diagnoses and prescriptions and amateur analysis of other people's neuroses. Exactly because this personal failing is so common, the A.A. group in all its dealings should be extra careful to emphasize that it is not invading the medical field. Through the personal experiences of its members, it is qualified to carry only one message: how an alcoholic can recover in A.A. That's all.

Yet one group recently felt itself equipped to set up an "alcoholism information center." The temptation is understandable; it was even stronger at the time this Tradition was written, because public ignorance about alcoholism as an illness was more widespread than it is now. Since then, other agencies have sprung up to assume the task of educating the general public on alcoholism. That is not A.A.'s purpose, but these agencies also are trying to help the active alcoholic. They are our friends — and Tradition Six marks the boundaries of the relationship....

P-43 Used with permission from AAWS



I am responsible.
When anyone, anywhere,
reaches out for help, I want
the hand of A.A. always to be there
And for that: **I am responsible.**

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 &
INTERGROUP**

Suggested Contribution \$5

1975 Hawaiian Theme
In Celebration:
50 years of Central Office

FOUNDER'S DAY 2025
SUNDAY-JUNE 1
11AM-3PM

Rancho San Rafael Park
(Peavine Pavilion)
1595 N. Sierra St
Reno

90 YEARS
1935 ~ 2025

Dessert/Packaged Chips
POTLUCK

RAFFLE
FELLOWSHIP
GAMES

Burgers Hot Dogs
Side Dishes
Provided

OTHER A.A. EVENTS

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



May 10, 2025

John L. – Las Vegas, NV
Host Group – Just for Today

June 14, 2025

Dan G. & Jacob G.-Reno NV
Host Group – End of The Road Gang

July 12, 2025

Teressa S.-Las Vegas NV
Host Group - TBD

August 9, 2025

Billy N. – W. Palm Beach FL
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.

SAVE THE DATE

Reno Spring Festival

2025

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH

- SUNDAY, MAY 18TH



**Festival Activities Friday-Sunday
W/Saturday Lunch Option
@ J Resort**

Annual Festival Golf Tournament
Sunday
@ Wolf Run Golf Course

There is a Solution

Serenity in the Sierras XXXVI
July 17-20, 2025



Gratitude in Action

Camp Richardson
"Eagle's Nest"
South Lake Tahoe, CA
July 17-20, 2025

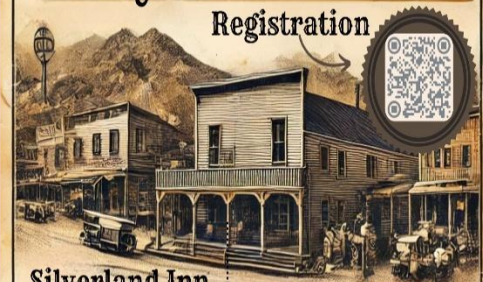
If you have any questions
Call or Text:
Annette G. (775) 220-3127
or
Email: serenityinthesierras@gmail.com

NACYPAA 4

Nevada Area Conference of young people in AA

July 24th-27th

Registration



Silverland Inn
100 North E St
Virginia City, NV

Room Block

Single King **\$129 a night plus tax**
Double Queen **\$139 a night plus tax**
Single Queen **\$139 a night plus tax**
Junior Suite **\$149 a night plus tax**

How to Book a Stay
Call 775-847-4484
Ask to speak to Tatiana

WANTED FIRE SPEAKERS

Rain M Garrison M

Angel R

Lauren W

LAST SPOTTED
OREGON

LAST SPOTTED
WASHINGTON

LAST SPOTTED
IDAHO

Central office report from Ronda H. May , 2025

This month we are doing something a little bit different. Buy 2 Tri-plate and get a free greeting card. Buy 2 or more books and get a free book mark. Sign up for The Blast, email of what's happening in our local AA. Fellowship. Email officemanager@nnig.org to be added to this once-a-month email.

Volunteer Hours: 107

Calls into Central Office: 136

- Calls for AA help - 8
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 2
- Meeting information - 32
- Retail / merchandise - 11
- Other 12-step programs - 1
- Events – 12
- New to AA/ Talked with - 3
- Business/Central office- 68
- Visitors – 274 -Dogs- 9

Texts – 6

Phone calls on the text Phone-6

Ronda H.
Central Office Manager



Previous Birthdays

March

Eryn W. 2 Years

Don D. 6 Years

Teri G. 12 Years

Kent L. 43 Years

January & February

Chip C. 41 Years

Jack 40 Years

December

Sean S. 33 Years

Cindy 36 Years

Mystery Person – 37 years

November

Heather L. 7 Years

October

Sharon F. 40 Years

Dave S. 41 Years

September

David 27 Years

Angelica B. 1 Years

Mike H. 29 years

Phil S. 45 Years

August

Dawn K. 13 Years

Linda G. 32 Years

Michael B. 35 Years

July

Josanne P. 12 Years

Dennis J. 24 Years

June

Paul E. 33 years

Kyle L. 42 Years

May

Donn T. 34 Years



April 2025

Kim D. 48 Years



"What an order. I can't go through it."

12x12 p.97-98



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 contribution 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

The month of May
Buy 2 Tri-plates get
a FREE greeting
card!



Buy 2 or more
BOOKS get free
bookmarks

Brown
Baggers
Discussion
1036 N Main St.
Alturas, CA
Mon-Sat

SATURDAY NIGHT
FEVER 7PM
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 Fourth Thursday of each month, 6:00 pm
Central Office 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 6:45PM

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

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

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



ALL AREA 42 MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO HELP
TRANSLATE MINUTES, EMAILS, GUIDELINES, ETC.

PROFICIENCY IN SPANISH **NOT**
REQUIRED! IN FACT, YOU DON'T EVEN
NEED TO SPEAK SPANISH.

ZOOM
MEETING
THIRD
THURSDAY OF
EACH MONTH
@ 5:30 PM PST

FOR MEETING ID & PASSCODE:
please contact the email below

Questions? ... email
translator_interpreter@nevadaarea42.org
Ask that someone from the Translation
Committee contact you.

We Are The
Sunshine Committee



Can You Help?

There are cases where sober AAs are unable to
make it to meetings. They are in the hospital or
physical rehabilitation hospital or are home-
bound while they recuperate.

When you cannot attend meetings do you get
'squirrelly' or on edge? Be a part of carrying the
message to those shut-ins by joining us as we
trudge the road of happy destiny on the

Sunshine Committee!!

Sobriety requirement—1 year
We will work with your schedule
Call: Ann. —650-290-4335
Email: aschwendlerlauf@gmail.com

Northern NV AA Bridging The GAP

Come Be of service in taking a
newcomer to their first AA meeting!
OR Make a Presentation at
treatment facilities!



Scan QR code to sign up as a
TEMPORARY CONTACT



5th Step Prayer

Higher Power,

My inventory has shown me who I am,
yet I ask for Your help in admitting my wrongs to another person and to You.

Assure me, and be with me in this step,
for without this Step, I cannot progress in my recovery.

With Your help, I can do this, and I will do it.

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2025

Group	April	YTD	Group	April	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE		48.60	A Vision for You		
A Way Home		604.03	Jamesville God Grant Me	15.00	15.00
Alano Big Book Study			Kindred Spirits		
Alano Brown Baggers		65.30	Kings Beach AA Golden Group		
Alano C ST. Discussion			Kingsbury Group		246.00
Alano Jaywalkers	333.64	333.64	McGill NV Freedom Group		12.00
Alano Open Heart Open Mind		175.00	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE	25.00	50.00
Alano Sunshine Group			Mindeb Language of the Heart		100.00
Back Room Group		65.70	Minden Saturday Night Fever		
Back to Basics Saturday Night		200.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		340.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Gro	433.00	724.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		
Bishop High Sierra Group	90.84	90.84	Minden/Gardnerville Group		
Blue Room Group			Mt Rose Big Book Study	80.00	80.00
Buena Vista Group		200.00	Mt Rose Candle Light		
CACYPAA	20.00	20.00	Mt Rose Men's Group	50.00	100.00
Caliente AA		16.43	Mt Rose Recovery Room	384.87	724.76
Caring & Sharing in Stead		324.85	NNIG Business Meeting	71.50	282.20
Carson After Shifters	195.00	378.70	Old Time AA Group		67.79
Carson Alano Club			Our Common Welfare		40.40
Carson Brown Baggers	71.00	193.00	Our Group		200.00
Carson Early Birds		388.00	Positive Acceptance Group		856.34
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting		231.22	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		60.00
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		438.57	Quincy Fellowship		
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		146.33	RTC Almost Heaven	50.00	250.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag	114.00	192.00	RTC Aloha Group	404.50	813.50
Carson Sandbaggers			RTC Beginners are Winners		1916.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Little Rascals	50.00	50.00
Chester Fellowship	90.00	90.00	RTC Men's Trudgers		194.98
Chester Saturday Night Group	115.42	115.42	RTC Monday Night Mens		450.00
Choices	200.00	400.00	RTC New Awakenings Group	318.22	455.80
Club 164			RTC Not a Glum Lot		
Cornerstone Group	90.00	90.00	RTC Sober AF	50.00	80.00
Dayton Red Rooster			RTC Women's Just for Today		256.22
Dayton Sunday Morning		572.00	Serenity in the Sierras Campout		
Decompression Chamber/online		214.98	Sisters in Sobriety	12.00	271.91
District 14		200.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		74.46
District 2		22.00	Slide Mountain Serenity	110.00	195.00
District 22	150.00	598.50	South Y Shore Lake Group		
District 6	6.00	6.00	Southside Group		452.96
Driars Knuckleheads			Southside Online Group		
Driars Support Hose		100.00	Step 1		
Driars the Nickle	100.00	350.00	Steps to Freedom		
End of the Road Group		2.30	Sunnyside Group	370.00	1155.00
Eye-Opener		1676.00	Susanville Fellowship		
Fallon Saturday Grapevine		100.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		400.00
Fallon Silver Lining	75.00	75.00	The Blue Room Group		47.53
Fernley Groups	100.00	300.00	The Next Chapter	100.00	100.00
Fireside Group			The Rock Group	231.31	436.31
First Responders		200.00	The Shop		300.00
Galena Friday Night		200.00	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Genoa Roadside Group			Truckee Fellowship		53.82
Greenville Group		50.00	Truckee River Men's Stag	1000.00	1500.00
Ground Zero		500.00	Verdi Greener Pastures		
Grupo Latino Reno		10.00	Verdi Meditation	125.00	125.00
Grupo Accion		40.00	Warriors in Recovery	300.00	300.00
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza	30.00	120.00	Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		
Grupo La Nueva Luz	20.00	50.00	Weekend Warriors		
Grupo Nueva Esperanza		17.00	Westwood Back to Basics		
Grupo Nueva Vida		20.00	Whole in the Ground		
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	60.00	Whole in the Soul		
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	50.00	200.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		180.00
Grupo Volver A Empezar			Women's AA Literature		
Happy Hour Reno	474.00	824.00	Women's Down and Dirty		205.00
Incline Village Fellowship			Women's New Beginnings		614.00
Inclined to be Sober		97.36	Women's New Harmony		
Lone Pine Group		225.00	Yerington Group		
Lovelock AA		20.00	Young at Heart		80.00

Total 6525.30 26,513.75

By: George H. | Kingston, New Hampshire
While trying to help someone through the Steps, he got an important reminder to stay close to our primary purpose

I had the chance to work with a man who had been attending a nearby Big Book Step Study meeting that I frequented from time to time. I met with him after the meeting and he agreed to my conditions to sponsor him, specifically that I was in his life to bring him through the Steps. He would develop his own relationship with God, while acknowledging that I was not an expert or mentor in any other way and would share my experience in the AA program with him. If we gained a friendship as a result, I told him, that would be great, but friendship was not the main reason for my sponsorship. He agreed to my terms, and we started to go carefully through the Big Book.

At “The Doctor’s Opinion,” we came to a screeching halt. As we were going over the three components of an alcoholic (mental obsession, physical compulsion and spiritual malady), he told me point-blank, “You know I can’t identify with this. I don’t think I’m an alcoholic based on this, but I still want to go through the book and take the Steps. I really value the peace and serenity I see from the people at the Big Book Step Study, and I want what they have.”

We discussed alcoholism a little more, using Chapter 3, “More about Alcoholism,” and he confirmed as I discussed each of the examples in the chapter that he absolutely didn’t have a drinking problem.

My ego got the better of me and I didn’t want to turn him away from the chance to do the Steps because I know the value of the Steps in *my* life. So I tried to find some common ground. Since we couldn’t get through the First Step hurdle of powerlessness over alcohol, we couldn’t take the First Step as it’s written.

Consequently, I overstepped my bounds, hurtling over the Traditions. I volunteered to do the Steps with him if we could identify something—some other substance or behavior that he was powerless over—that made his life unmanageable.

So we looked for another angle for this recovery, maybe through Al-Anon or drugs or food or work or any other addiction, but remarkably and fortunately for me, the Tradition violator, none were to be found and he

couldn’t identify with any of them. The end result was that we parted company, and I didn’t see him after that.

The point I’m getting to is that, as one AA speaker I’ve heard says, “All can come into AA,” and all we ask is that you “catch alcoholism” so that we can work our recovery as laid out in our Twelve Steps.

There was my answer. I was in error to try to be an expert in any other addiction, even if it meant I could bring someone through our hallowed process. I needed to stick with what works, and what works is our primary purpose.

I also learned that I need to maintain the code of love and tolerance. I need to be accepting of those having other addictions besides alcohol or maybe no addictions, and I need to send out gentle reminders about our Traditions—but to do so in private, in the spirit of consideration of others. The truth will flush itself out eventually, keeping in mind our primary purpose to the suffering alcoholic.

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**“God can’t give you
anything new until you
let go of the old.”**



Eventually
every alcoholic
will have his
last drink.
Those of us in
AA get to talk
about ours.

Interview with an alcoholic continued

My sponsor would say do that fourth step, I said, "George, what are you talking about?" He said "you got to do that fourth step." I said "you got to remember, I'm a Catholic boy, I go to confession, I don't have anything to say."

And he said, wait a minute. You said you're an alcoholic. Are you telling me that you were saintly alcoholic? I said no, that's not true. And he said, well, then think about what you're saying. So I did my fifth step with a Jesuit priest in Oakland, CA, who, by the way, is on the AA speaking circuit and his name is Father Ernie, and he travels all over the country and gives talks. He was relieved of his Jesuit duties and he does nothing but work with Alcoholics and drug addicts. Nice guy. What a great guy anyway.

When I went to do my stuff, I had one of those big pieces of paper that you write everything on it. I gave it to him, and he looked at it and he threw it in the garbage can. And he said, "Why don't you tell me something about yourself?" So, I went on and talked about myself, what a great guy I was, had a great family and got a lot of money and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And He said, "really, well, can I ask you a question?" He said, "have you ever thought about how selfish you were." I said, "what do you mean?" He said "Well, you just told me that, you're madly in love with your wife, but you were having a problem because you weren't coming home at night. Do you think that's not selfish?" Talk about the baseball bat on the head. See, I never went to confession and admitted I was an alcoholic, never. I never realized how selfish I was. She's home with the kids and I'm out there doing my thing. He was very good. I tell people he stripped me like an onion. He just peeled me away.

How many times have you gone through the steps?

Probably every day. There are certain things, I've tried to do an inventory religiously. I do say prayers every morning and every night. So that's all part of that. And of course, I'm trying to carry the message.

You have lived in many different places, tell us about the different kinds of recovery you've seen.

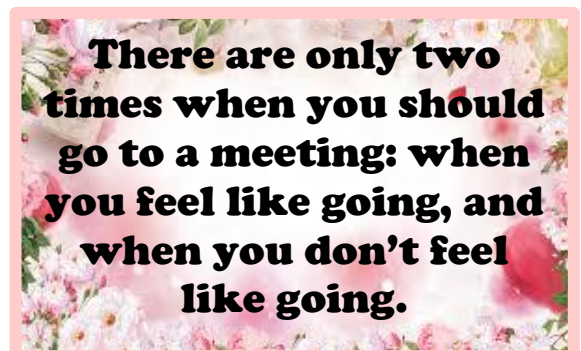
I lived in two states where there was a lot of drinking. One of them was Nevada, the other place I worked at for five years was in New Orleans, LA. I was in A.A. and the thing that I noticed about the people in New Orleans was you'd go to an early morning meeting around 8:00, and people would come in with black pants and white shirts on. I think what's with all these people they say, they're all coming from work. They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and always open, like here. I never thought about that, that our bars are open all night long and they were all coming in

for a meeting. My other experience in New Orleans was a gal came in, he had a child with her. The child was probably 14 to 15 years old. I asked this guy, "is this an open or closed meeting?" He said, that's her daughter. And I said, is she allowed to be here. He said "Dennis, she worked on the street for two years." She was a kid. You should have heard their story. I could not believe it. I had a guy who asked me to be a sponsor, and he was very wealthy in the oil industry. I said, sure, if somebody asked me to be a sponsor, I interviewed them. I'll say let's go have coffee and let's talk because I want to make sure that what I think and what they think is going to match up. We go and we have coffee. I said, tell me a little about yourself. I'm married; I got 2 girls. And I have a girlfriend and. I stopped him, I said. What did you say? He said. What do you mean? I said, did you just say you had a girlfriend? Yeah, I said. Well, in that case I can't sponsor you. And he looked at me, he said. Why? What are you talking about? I said, I thought this is supposed to be a program of honesty. You're telling me, you have a girlfriend and you're married with two daughters, that you're being honest. He said you are the first person that ever said that to me. I said, well, that's the deal. If you are going to keep the girlfriend, I don't want to sponsor you. I met him about a month later at a meeting. He said can I talk to you a minute? I said, I thought we already had this discussion. He says since our conversation, I don't have a girlfriend anymore. I said, well, good for you now I'll sponsor you. I mean, we can't let people lie. You got to tell me the truth. Either clean the slate or forget it.

Final thoughts ?

I hope that the program never changes that we maintain singleness of purpose and that we carry it to the best of our ability. That's all I can do.

This interview was recorded on
February the 22nd, 2025





RULE 62

True love

She was a widow and he was a widower. They were both blackout drunks since their teenage years. They had a brief relationship in high school but then went their separate ways. Now, at their 60th high school reunion, here they were, face-to-face again. They picked up right where they left off, with the heavy drinking, flirty comments, coy smiles and dancing. At the end of the evening the well-fortified widower had the liquid courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?" She immediately responded, "Yes! Yes, I will!"

So the widower was delighted. The next morning, nursing a hangover and remembering only blurred pieces of the evening, he couldn't remember if she said yes or no to his proposal. So with some trepidation he picked up the phone and called her, explaining that sometimes he didn't remember things very well. Finally he asked her, "When I asked you to marry me last night, did you say yes or did you say no?" "Why, you silly man, I said yes and I meant it with all my heart!" The widower was thrilled. Then she said, "And I'm so glad you called, because I couldn't remember who asked me!"

When I started in A.A. in 1976 in Northern California, I had a job therefore, I could only go to evening meetings. Usually after the meeting we would go out for dessert and coffee. As a newcomer I didn't realize that they were doing this for me. After several of these coffee events I finally said "may I ask a question? How much coffee do you gentleman drink?" One older members shouted "Sir, we don't know of anyone who has died from drinking too much coffee" What a roar!



Miles to nowhere



Three tipsy friends were sitting in the bar of a railway station waiting for a train. When the train arrived, they decided to have one last quick one before departure. This, of course, made them late for boarding.

Just as the train was pulling out, the three made a dash for it. Only two of them made it. The third fellow staggered back to the bar, laughing his head off. The bartender, curious about his good humor, asked how he could be so happy, having just missed his train.

"I did miss it, indeed," said the drunk, "but the funny thing is, the other guys only came down to see me off."



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