

#

A A's

## **Recovery** **Step Six:**

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

Three

## **Unity** **Tradition Six:**

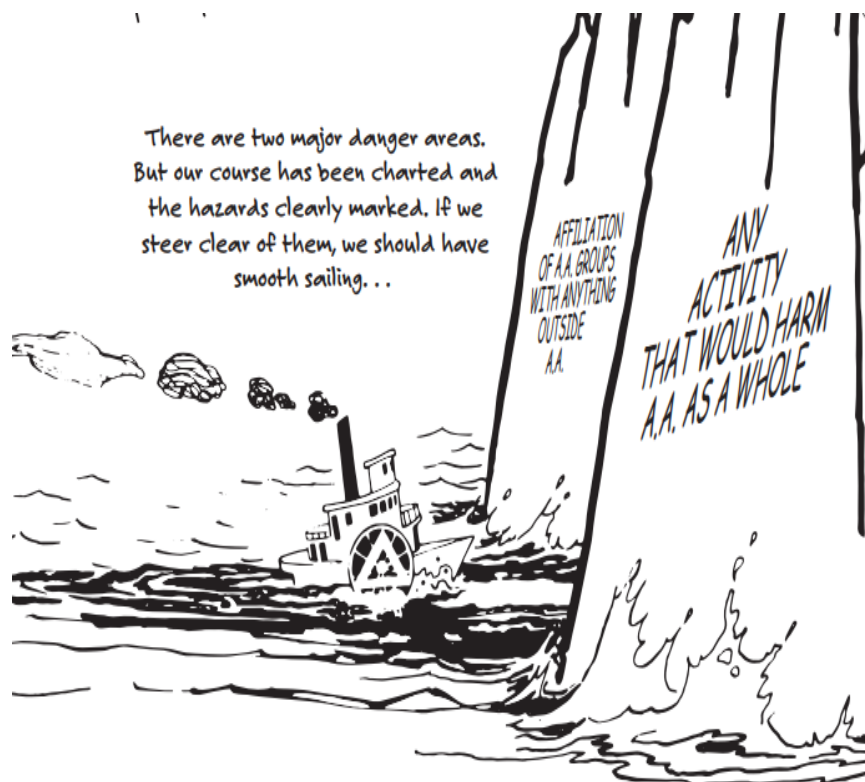
"An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Legacies

## **Service** **Concept Six**

"On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

The "related facility" may be an outside group combating alcoholism – or an enterprise that A.A.'s wants to start. It was the latter that most often confronted the young Fellowship. Outside agencies were pretty scarce in those days, and some members thought A.A. should cover the whole alcoholism field. Led by a "super-promoter" (as the "Twelve and Twelve" describes him), one group built an all-purpose center, including a section for drying-out treatment. Picture any group tackling such a project! Arguments over cost, architecture, staff, fees, medication, and rules might even make the local paper. (And pity the poor newcomer straying into the group — "We'll get around to you in a minute.") Though that ambitious center failed, some individual members have since founded successful clubhouses, rest farms, halfway houses, etc. The enterprises are run by these A.A.'s and patronized by other members or prospective members. But money and property are involved. Therefore, it has proved wise to keep the operation of the facility completely separate from that of any A.A. group, and to keep "A.A." or terms like "Twelfth Step" out of the name. Toward outside agencies dealing with alcoholism, the A.A. policy is "cooperation but not affiliation." A group cooperates, for example, by welcoming referrals from clinics or by sponsoring A.A. groups in institutions. But in one area, money for a rehab was solicited at an A.A. meeting — implying affiliation. In another, A.A. was listed among beneficiaries of a United Fund drive....



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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

**NNIG Monthly Speaker Meetings**  
Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month  
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



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 – Sisters of Sobriety

August 9, 2025  
Billy N. – W. Palm Beach FL  
Host Group – Jay Walkers

September 13, 2025  
Ralph W. – Los Angeles, CA  
Host Group – Open heart Open Mind

**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.**

Page 3

EVENTS HOSTED BY NORTHERN NEVADA  
INTERGROUP TO SUPPORT CENTRAL OFFICE &  
INTERGROUP

# The Biggest Little Rainbow+

AA CAMPOUT

# Annual Tie-Dye Event

HEAR AN INSPIRING SPEAKER  
TIE-DYE YOUR OWN SWAG  
ENJOY DELICIOUS ENTRÉES – BRING A SIDE TO SHARE  
(POTLUCK STYLE!)  
BYOT(SHIRT) OR GRAB ONE FROM US!



**JUNE 21, 2025 AT NOON**  
**LOCATION TBD**  
**SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION:**  
**\$15 PRE SALE, \$20 AT THE DOOR**  
**TSHIRTS/CROP TOPS \$25**

## OTHER A.A. EVENTS

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

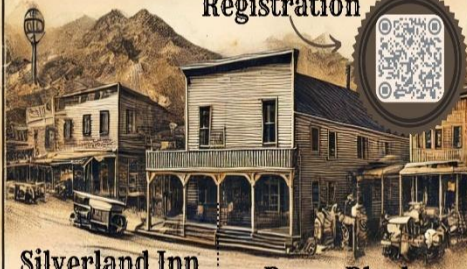
If you have any questions  
Call or Text:  
Annette G. (775) 220-3127  
or  
Email: [serenityinthesierras@gmail.com](mailto:serenityinthesierras@gmail.com)

# NACYPAA 4

Nevada Area Conference of young people in AA

## July 24th-27th

## Registration



**Silverland Inn**  
100 North E St  
Virginia City, NV

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

## 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

## WANTED FIRE SPEAKERS

Rain M Garrison M

**Angel R**

Lauren W

# THE BIGGEST LITTLE RAINBOW+

AA campout 2025

A WEEKEND OF PRIDE,  
RECOVERY & COMMUNITY

**Dates:** Thursday, July 31 - Sunday, August 3, 2025  
**Location:** Boca Rest Area  
 Come celebrate sobriety and connection with our LGBTQIA+ family at our annual camp out!  
 Enjoy a weekend filled with laughter, love, and community under the stars.

 **Pre-registration:** \$40 /\$50 day of  
Includes camping, one dinner entree, one breakfast, and all the good  
vibes you can handle.

 **Day Pass:** \$30  
Perfect for those just popping in for the fun and fellowship.

**venmo**

Smores • Resentment Bonfire • Speakers • Raffles  
Saturday night potluck style sides with BBQ entree &  
beverages provided  
Potluck Based On Sobriety Month  
Jan-Mar Side Dish/Apr-June Salad or Fruit  
July-Sept Dessert/Oct-Dec Potato or Mac Salad

Don't miss the chance to recharge, reconnect, and celebrate.



## Central office report from Ronda H. May , 2025

Book of the month is " Experience , Strength and Hope" ONLY \$6 . 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: 120 hrs

Calls into Central Office: 131

- Calls for AA help - 9
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 6
- Meeting information - 37
- Retail / merchandise - 10
- Other 12-step programs - 1
- Events – 11
- New to AA/ Talked with - 1
- Business/Central office- 56
- **Visitors – 274 -Dogs- 13**

**Texts – 3**

**Phone calls on the text Phone- 1**

*Ronda H.  
Central Office Manager*



## Previous Birthdays

### March

Eryn W. 2 Years  
Don D. 6 Years  
Kent L. 43 Years  
Kim D. 48 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  
Angelia B. 1 Years  
Mike 11.29 years  
Phil S. 48 Years

### August

Dawn K. 13 Years  
Linda G. 32 Years  
Michael B. 33 Years

### July

JoAnne P. 12 Years  
Dennis J. 24 Years

### June

Paul E. 33 years  
Kyle L. 42 Years



## May 2025

**Ron T. 14 Years**

**Tom H. 23 Years**



Winston

"During the day, we pause where situations must be met and decisions made, and renew simple request "Thy will, not mine, be done." " 12x12 p. 105

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



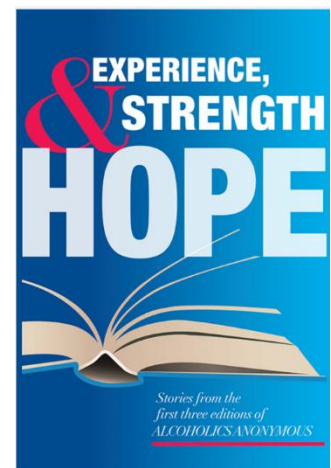
**Five N Live**  
**Saturday 5:15 PM**  
**Alano Club**  
**680 River St.**  
**Elko, NV**

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

The month of June  
**Experience ,Strength**  
**and Hope**  
**\$6.00**

**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  
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** Fourth Thursday of each month, 6:00 pm  
Central Office OR Zoom ID: 819 5830 2884  
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 6:45PM

**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

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](mailto: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](mailto: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



## 6th Step Prayer

Dear God,

*I am ready for your help in removing from me,  
the defects of character which I now realize are obstacles to my recovery.  
Help me to continue being honest with myself  
and guide me toward  
spiritual and mental health.*

# **NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2025**

<b>Group</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>YTD</b>
4th Dimension- ON-LINE		48.60	A Vision for You		
A Way Home		604.03	Jamesville God Grant Me		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	492.00
Alano Jaywalkers		333.64	McGill NV Freedom Group		12.00
Alano Open Heart Open Mind		175.00	Mid-Day Group ON-LINE		50.00
Alano Sunshine Group			Mindeb Language of the Heart	50.00	150.00
Back Room Group		65.70	Minden Saturday Night Fever		
Back to Basics Saturday Night	400.00	600.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		340.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		724.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live	48.60	48.60
Bishop High Sierra Group		90.84	Minden/Gardnerville Group	20.22	20.22
Blue Room Group			Mt Rose Big Book Study		80.00
Buena Vista Group		200.00	Mt Rose Candle Light		
CACYPAA		20.00	Mt Rose Men's Group		100.00
Caliente AA		16.43	Mt Rose Recovery Room		724.76
Caring & Sharing in Stead		324.85	NNIG Business Meeting	80.00	362.20
Carson After Shifters		378.70	Old Time AA Group		67.79
Carson Alano Club	277.00	277.00	Our Common Welfare	7.00	47.40
Carson Brown Baggers		193.00	Our Group		200.00
Carson Early Birds	189.00	577.00	Positive Acceptance Group		856.34
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting	216.79	448.01	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	300.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		192.00	RTC Aloha Group		813.50
Carson Sandbaggers			RTC Beginners are Winners		1916.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Little Rascals		50.00
Chester Fellowship		90.00	RTC Men's Trudgers	194.98	389.96
Chester Saturday Night Group		115.42	RTC Monday Night Mens		450.00
Choices		400.00	RTC New Awakenings Group		455.80
Club 164			RTC Not a Glum Lot		
Cornerstone Group		90.00	RTC Sober AF		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		271.91
District 14	150.00	350.00	Sisters of Sobriety SOS		74.46
District 2	17.00	45.00	Slide Mountain Serenity		195.00
District 22	150.00	748.50	South Y Group	115.00	115.00
District 6		6.00	Southside Group	400.80	853.76
Driars Knuckleheads			Southside Online Group		
Driars Support Hose		100.00	Step 1		
Driars the Nickle		350.00	Steps to Freedom		
End of the Road Group		2.30	Sunnyside Group		1155.00
Eye-Opener		1676.00	Susanville Fellowship		
Fallon Saturday Grapevine		100.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		400.00
Fallon Silver Lining		75.00	The Blue Room Group		47.53
Fernley Groups		300.00	The Next Chapter		100.00
Fireside Group	242.06	242.06	The Rock Group		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		1500.00
Ground Zero	194.40	694.40	Verdi Greener Pastures		
Grupo Latino Reno		10.00	Verdi Meditation		125.00
Grupo Accion	20.00	60.00	Warriors in Recovery		300.00
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza		120.00	Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		
Grupo La Nueva Luz		50.00	Weekend Warriors		
Grupo Nueva Esperanza	47.00	64.00	Westwood Back to Basics		
Grupo Nueva Vida	10.00	30.00	Whole in the Ground		
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	80.00	Whole in the Soul		
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	50.00	250.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	60.00	240.00
Grupo Volver A Empezar			Women's AA Literature		
Happy Hour Reno		824.00	Women's Down and Dirty		205.00
Incline Village Fellowship			Women's New Beginnings	225.00	839.00
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	160.00

**Total      3560.85    30,080.60**

## Tradition 6

*An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.*

### The Question of Clubs

BY: LINDA W. | LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS

What's the connection between clubs and AA?

I had "the gift of desperation" when I got to my first AA meeting at a club not far from my home. I was ready to do whatever it took to be free from drinking. So after hearing the pitch for joining the club at the beginning of an AA meeting, I filled out the application and turned it in. That's when the old-timer I gave it to told me I had to have ninety days of sobriety before I could join. My heart sank. There was no way I would be able to stay sober for ninety days. I felt like crying.

The old-timer assured me there was nothing to cry about, however. Alcoholics Anonymous was free, and if I wanted to be a member, I was. That's all there was to it. I didn't need to fill out an application form, pay any money, or even promise sobriety.

I like to go wherever other alcoholics gather together to help one another. Most of the meetings I go to are not in a club setting, but some are. Recently, an AA member actually said she was "grateful to the club for her sobriety." Of course, I can understand how easy it is to be confused about this. But a line from the "Guidelines on Clubs," published by AA World Services, helps me to grasp the difference between AA and a club: "Even though the group meets in a club that may be composed exclusively of AA members, and many members of the group may be club members, too, the relationship of the AA group itself to the club should be the same as it would be to a church, hospital, school, or other facility in which it might rent space for its meetings."

My home group meets in a church. The people at the church office are supportive and kind. We are happy to pay them rent, but we wouldn't dream of letting them tell us what to say in a meeting. When our group first started, we discussed what to name it at the business meeting. One of the names included the name of the church where we meet. Someone pointed out that we wouldn't want to do that because it implies affiliation. We meet at the church. In no other way are we affiliated with it.

Sometimes I get a helpful perspective on a Tradition by going through the Grapevine's Traditions Checklist. The questions were originally published in the Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that ran between November 1969 and September 1971. While they were originally intended for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

Here is what the checklist says about Tradition Six: "Are all the officers and members of our local club for AAs familiar with the pamphlet 'Guidelines on Clubs'?"

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This is AA

BY: MIKE M. | FORT WAYNE, IND.

Tradition Six is a reminder that outside facilities are separate

IN thinking about this Tradition I'm reminded of my friend George. In the fall of '94 I was on our local intergroup call list. Late one evening, I was asked to give George a call, as he might want help. George said that he had tried "AA" before but it had never worked--during several previous stays in treatment, he'd gone to meetings there. It was a great surprise to George when I said that most of those meetings were run by the facilities; they were not AA groups but a function of the treatment center or hospital. I said I would be glad to meet him and show him the program of recovery that worked for me--as outlined in our book Alcoholics Anonymous--and introduce him to an AA group. Because of the amount of alcohol George had consumed, I suggested a medically supervised detox. After that, I agreed to meet him at my home group. Unexpectedly, I had to leave early so I arranged for George to be met by a fellow member, Jimmy D.--who became George's sponsor.

Eight years later, when Jimmy D. died, George talked about the wonderful away of life Jimmy had shared with him. George and I often reminisced about how he had given up hope of finding sobriety, and how he thought he had tried AA but had never been introduced to the program of recovery.

"While an AA group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied," AA's Sixth Tradition, long form, says. (AA's Third Tradition, long form, adds: "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.")

An alcoholic is one who drinks TWICE AS MUCH of what he shouldn't drink HALF AS MUCH of as the fellow who drinks NOTHING.

## Interview with an alcoholic continued from p.1

Then the fear seemed to have passed, and I stayed sober, another six months. Right after. Then I realized that I had to have a drink, so I thought I'll just have one drink. After a year of sobriety, I could do that. I hadn't been to A.A. Didn't even think about going to A.A. I was just going to do this on my own. So that one or two drinks was fine for about 3 days and then it caught up with me and I was on to another drunk. Then it just went month to month and then week to week and then day-to-day. I stayed drunk until I was 31 years old and. Then I realize that I wasn't going to see New Year's Eve that that year. I had been in Alaska for two weeks on the job and I was drunk every day up there. Full of fear, full of anxiety, full of remorse, facing a possible divorce and losing my family. I thought that suicide might be an answer, but I was too much of a coward to meet God. If He was there. I called out in my desperation to God. I didn't want to ever take a drink again, help me and nothing happened. If I'm looking back, it was a cry. Out from my mind and not my from my heart. All I wanted to do was get rid of the pain and the terrible anxiety, remorse I was feeling. So I cried out again. God help me, I don't ever want to take a drink again. That was the second time and still nothing happened. Still from my head. I just want to get rid of the pain. And the third time I'd cried out. God, please help me. I don't ever want to take a drink again. And this time it had some emotion, and it was coming from down deep inside of me. I noticed the difference right away. I felt a hand touched me on my right shoulder. And the voice spoke to me and said, Mel, you have a deal. You don't take a drink and I will keep you sober. The first and last time that I ever heard an audible voice from God. I've had been sober for a few days at that point. I wasn't hallucinating, so I know that this was true. God is so faithful. Within two minutes, a neighbor popped through the front door like she always did. And she found me back in the bedroom, sitting on the bed, crying. The first time I'd cried in 17 years. She said to me. Mel, what's wrong? And I said I don't ever want to drink again. And she said OH great, let's go call A.A. Some reason this woman had the number for Alcoholics Anonymous in North Sacramento, and she called the number and handed me the phone and said here you talked to. I did and they said that they would send somebody out and I said no, I don't need anybody to come out, I just need to know where the meeting is. Still being stubborn and I'm going to do this myself. I've just asked God, He just spoke to me and here I am already doing to do it on my own. So 3 three more days went by and then I went to a Friday night meeting. It happened to be a birthday night in North Sacramento group. They told their stories, what it used to be like what happened and what it's like now. I wasn't convinced that I was still an alcoholic. But after the meeting and their stories, I said I think I might be an alcoholic. They all laughed and said that I was in the right place, and I think there was three other new people that night, and it was a wonderful night. There was no place to sit. It was so full. I was standing and after the meeting, everybody came up to me and said how glad they were that I was there. I could also have what they had. I went to meetings every day for every day, seven days a week for about a whole year in North Sacramento. I learned a lot about alcoholism and what it is, what it does and how sneaky it is on us. If I take the first drink, there's no hope for me

getting away from a drunk. I knew at the time that there was no slip for me, no trying it again. That God had given me His word that He would keep me sober if I didn't take a drink. That is what I needed to do and that's what I did do. I refused to take it. About 5 months into sobriety, there were other people there for their first six months. They were getting drunk and I got scared. I thought, am I next? Am I going to get drunk? And by that time, I got a sponsor. He was a Southern Baptist preacher that had lost his Ministry through alcohol. He said to me, Mel, you're not. You're just fine. You're only suffering a dry drunk. Your body is screaming for a drink and you can't hear it. The things that I learned in A.A. kept me sober, caused me to learn and caused me to believe that that God could and would, if he were sought and I was busy seeking Him. There was a bet on me at about nine months that I was going to get drunk because I was on Cloud 9 for the whole year after God got me sober. And I don't think that I would have made sobriety if I'd had to do it one day at a time. God took the desire all at once for a drink, and I have never had as desire for one since. I went through a divorce at the at six months in the program. It was a difficult time and I was out on my own. I had lots of A.A. people around still doing meetings every day. Enjoying my new life in Alcoholics Anonymous and talking about God, could and would if He were sought. God is always faithful if you will seek him. I got married again about a year later had two more children I tried to seek God with all my heart and he was found by me and I did a lot of A.A. work, did the speaker platform at some recovery houses out in Fallon I became more aware of God and his son, Jesus Christ, I returned to my faith that I had when I was at 14, proceeded to be involved with Jesus as my Lord and savior. My sponsor was very supportive. He told me that Alcoholics Anonymous was for salvation from alcohol and the church was for salvation for the soul, and told me not to mix them up. That was good advice and I took it. And from that point on, after 10 years, another divorce, which I hated. But it did happen. I'm so grateful for the whole relationship I have with God, as I understand Him. I'm not angry about my alcoholism, at the time I spent in the cup. Because if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't be who I am today and I like me and most people like me. When I came into A.A. all I wanted to do was be a kind person and we had a pettiness prayer that we said every night and it ended with, Oh God let me not forget to be kind.

That was something I wanted to be because I had not been a kind person for 17 years in the cup. I am a kind person today and I have some humility, except when I think about it. And then it seems to disappear. That I've been told that I have been humbled at times, so I have a total of 11 children. I have three of my five of my own. 2 Stepchildren 3 foster children and one that adopted me because she needed a father. And I'm very grateful for all that. And I have 17 grandchildren. And 31 great grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. And that's a life that's full.

This interview took place on April the 26, 2025.





## RULE 62

The great Canadian physician, Sir William Osler, was lecturing one day on the effects of alcohol.

"Is it true," asked a student, "that alcohol makes people do things better?"

"No," replied Sir William, "it just makes them less ashamed of doing them badly."

WE know an AA who waited, in fear and trembling, in the doctor's outer office for a report on a general check-up. The doc, who knew his patient of old, came out of his office reading the chart and frowning mightily. Our boy was scared.

"Know what?" asked the doctor, fixing our lad with a stare.

"No, Doc, *What?*"

"According to this," replied the doctor, tapping the report, "*blood* is getting into your *alcohol* stream!"

A policeman walking his beat came upon a tipsy gentleman on his hands and knees in the gutter, searching intently along the curb. "What you looking for, bud?" he inquired.

"I lost a ring."

"Where you'd lose it?"

"Down at the corner of Nassau Street."

"At Nassau Street? Then why look for it here?"

"Cause it's light here."

Drunk: "If it wasn't for women, I wouldn't be here."

Judge: "If it weren't for women, none of us would be here. Thirty days."



One way to save face is to keep the lower half of it shut.

The man who brags about sitting on top of the world might do well to remember that it turns over every twenty-four hours.





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