

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



September 13  
Ralph W.  
Host group-  
Open Hearts Open  
Mind

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

## SEPTEMBER

Tradition 9	2
Events	3
Book of the Month	4
Showcase Meetings and more	4
Birthdays	4
Service Opportunities	5
Group Contributions	6
Tradition 9	7
Earning a Dream 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 BRACER



## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

### Earning a Dream

**BY: JANET H. | TUCSON, ARIZONA**

A single mom recalls how she followed her sponsor's suggestion to reach some financial security

How I came to possess a little Serenity Prayer card back then escapes me now, but I grabbed onto it and taped it to a shoebox where I put all my bills. As a single welfare mom with a daughter who, like me, had experienced way too much trauma, I had a lot of bills. Mostly medical bills that would continue to mount over the next eight years. Willie suggested that I sit down with that shoebox every month and pick up the phone to call everybody to whom I owed money. And so I did. One by one, I explained how much money I had that month and how much of it I was going to give to them toward my bill. then I thanked them for their patience.

The hospital billing staff was trained to try to get me to fill out a credit application. I explained to them that I had no credit because I had no income other than welfare. I would continue to try to pay what I could and that would have to be enough.

Another wise woman explained to me that as long as I made contact every month and even paid as little as a dollar, it would be impossible for anyone to come and get me or do anything to me. Eventually, after several years the hospital informed me that they had written off my debt. Communication had been essential to resolving that situation.

Somebody asked me back then what my dream was. I told them it was "to pay taxes." In my heart, I felt that it was through the generosity of my society and culture that I was surviving this disease with my daughter. I wanted to repay that money so someone else could benefit from it.

Continued p. 7

A A's

## Recovery Step Nine:

"Made direct amends to such people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

Three

## Unity Tradition Nine:

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Legacies

## Service Concept Nine

"Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

The words "Let's keep it simple" were the last Bill W. heard from his fellow founder of A.A., shortly before Dr. Bob's death in 1950. Aware that "it" means our recovery program, Bill later wrote, "We need to distinguish sharply between spiritual simplicity and functional simplicity. ...When we get into questions of action by groups, by areas, and by A.A. as a whole, we find that we must to some extent organize to carry the message — or else face chaos. And chaos is not simplicity." When Tradition Nine speaks of "A.A. as such," it goes to the heart of the A.A. experience, to the "spiritual simplicity" of one alcoholic's saying, silently perhaps, "Help!" and another alcoholic's answering, "I know how you feel. We're here to help you." Such a relationship couldn't be organized. Or could it? A nonmember familiar with modern business procedures might examine the A.A. practice of sponsorship and see it as a haphazard operation. How about computerizing it? Then an A.A. behind an intergroup desk might say, "So you want help? First, you need the right sponsor. We have personality profiles of all our sponsors fed into our computer. We'll match you up to the best one for you if you'll just fill out this questionnaire. ...Where are you going? Come back!" That would be an attempt to organize "A.A. as such." (Please — nobody get any ideas!) But in "action by groups," we find that we do need some degree of organization. If everybody thinks somebody else is going to make the coffee, what's the result? No coffee! To avoid such a disaster, one or more members agree to be responsible for preparing meeting refreshments. All the way from coffee-brewers to trustees on the General Service Board, those who take part in A.A. service work are assuming responsibility — not taking on authority. (Here, Traditions Two and Nine interlock.) Group officers are responsible to the members of the group; intergroup committees, to the groups in one locality; institutions committees, to A.A. groups in treatment facilities and correctional facilities; area committees, to all groups in their areas; Conference delegates and committees, to all groups in the U.S. and Canada; the General Service Office and Board and the board's committees, to all groups and members everywhere. In an average business corporation, the board has final power to determine company plans and policy. Our board of trustees serves in a custodial capacity; trustees vote at the Conference — but as individuals, with one vote apiece. In industry, branch offices jump when the home office speaks. Our GSO is just a clearinghouse of A.A. information, offering suggestions based on experiences reported to it by groups. And yet, with so small a degree of organization, A.A. miraculously does work! One reason may be that Tradition Five applies to each A.A. committee and board as directly as it does to each A.A. group. By cleaving to this "one primary purpose" in all its activities, the Fellowship retains "spiritual simplicity." To diffuse that purpose, to embroil A.A. in issues apart from its true concern, would create dangerous complications....

### WE DO SET UP COMMITTEES AND BOARDS . . .

*But whether they make coffee. . . or help organize*



# NNIG & AREA EVENTS

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 [nnigracer@gmail.com](mailto:nnigracer@gmail.com)  
 Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the month.

**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



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

**October 11, 2025**  
**Minnie M. – Las Vegas, NV**  
**Host Groups – Women’s New Harmony & Women’s New Beginnings**

**November 1, 2025**  
**Pat Y.- Seal Beach, CA**  
**Host Group – Young at Heart**

**December 13, 2025**  
**Sully 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.

Northern Nevada  
 Intergroup Presents

## Gratitude Dinner

NOV  
 SATURDAY 8 5:00-8:00

2025

### RENO BALLROOM

401 University Way | Reno | 89501

Turkey Dinner 6pm

Dessert | Raffle

**AA SPEAKER**

Doug R. – Tujunga, CA | 7:00pm

**TICKETS \$65**

NNIG Central Office  
 436 Rock Blvd | Sparks | 89431

Gratitude ~ Gateway to Grace



### OTHER A.A. EVENTS

## Decades of Dedication:

### Our Elder Statesmen in Service

Join us in celebrating the invaluable contributions of our Elder Statesmen whose years of service have shaped our community.



Las Vegas Central Office  
 1515 East Tropicana Ave., Meeting Room  
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119  
 Saturday, October 18, 2025 2 pm - 4 pm PST

Can't join us in person? Join us on Zoom!

Zoom Meeting Details:

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 883 2786 4410

Passcode: access



Brought to you by the Southern Area Accessibilities Committee and Area 42 Archives

## NNIG Halloween Party

\$5 SUGGESTED  
 CONTRIBUTION

**October 25, 2025**

**5 PM**

**Neil RD Recreation Center**

**3925 Neil Rd**

**Costume Contest**

**Kids Activities**

**Tacos 3 for \$6**

**6 for \$10**

**Speaker**



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

Book of the month "As Bill Sees IT" \$2 OFF

Please come and support your Central office and the AA events going on in our area.

The office is for every member, if anyone needs anything to get 12 step work done and the office can help in some way please let us know.

Volunteer Hours: 119.25 hrs.

Calls into Central Office: 118

- Calls for AA help - 10
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 1
- Meeting information - 46
- Retail / merchandise - 13
- Other 12-step programs - 3
- Events - 7
- New to AA/ Talked with - 0
- Business/Central office- 38
- **Visitors - 284 -Dogs- 11**



**Texts - 8 Phone calls on the text Phone- 4**

*Ronda H.  
Central Office Manager*

## Previous Birthdays

July

Jermery L. 4 YEARS  
Joanne D. 15 YEARS  
Ann G. 21 YEARS  
Sandra G. 30 YEARS  
Suz M. 30 YEARS  
Jeff M. 30 YEARS  
Paul M. 34 YEARS

June 2025

Cassie, 5 Years  
Teri G. 12 Years  
Paul C. 34 Years

May

Ron T. 14 Years  
Tom H. 25 Years

March

Eryn W. 2 Years  
Don D. 6 Years  
Kent L. 45 Years

January & February

Chip C. 41 Years  
Jaek 40 Years

December

Sean S. 35 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  
Angliea B. 1 Years  
Mike H. 29 years  
Phil S. 48 Years

# August

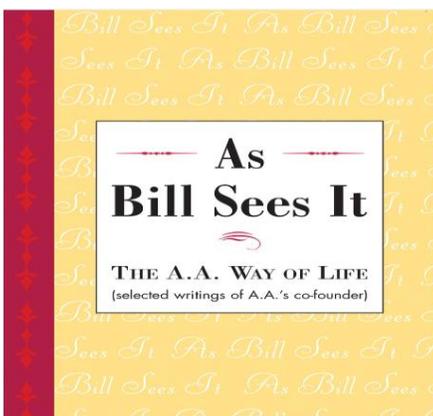
Linda G. 33 Years



"In every A.A. story, pain has been the price of admission into a new life. But this admission price purchased more than we expected. It led us to a measure of humility, which we soon discovered to be a healer of pain. We began to fear pain less, and desire humility more than ever"

12x12 p.76

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



The month of September  
2025

**As Bill Sees IT**  
**\$2.00 OFF**

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

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

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

**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 every other even 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](tel:7609378407)

**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 424  
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  
'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: [aschwenderlauf@gmail.com](mailto:aschwenderlauf@gmail.com)*

## Northern Nevada Intergroup

### Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap is one of the many ways to get into  
service in Alcoholics Anonymous. Through 12<sup>th</sup> step work we  
aim to bridge the gap of time newcomers have between jails  
and institutions and their first days to the fellowship. The  
committee is always accepting people who want to be of  
service either with being a newcomer's contact or taking  
presentations into institutions to help share our message of  
hope. Please scan the QR code below.

Our committee is looking for a co-chair, to help assist  
the Chair with responsibilities, and a contact coordinator for  
the Carson/Gardnerville area. 2 years of sobriety required  
with knowledge of our 12 traditions. Please email Becky O.  
for more information at

[btgnnig@gmail.com](mailto:btgnnig@gmail.com)



## 9th Step Prayer

### Higher Power,

***I pray for the right attitude to make my amends, being ever  
mindful not to harm others in the process. I ask for Your  
guidance in making indirect amends. Most important, I will  
continue to make amends by staying abstinent, helping  
others, and growing in spiritual progress.***

### NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2025

Group	August	YTD	Group	August	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE		141.65	Happy Hour Reno		1325.00
A Way Home		1168.80	Hispanic State Convention		
Alano Brown Baggers		65.30	Kingsbury Group		492.00
Alano Captains Table			Ladies of the Evening		
Alano Jaywalkers		333.64	Lone Pine Group		225.00
Alano Open Heart Open Mind		175.00	Lovelock AA		20.00
Back Room Group		172.81	McGill NV Freedom Group		12.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night	260.00	860.00	Mid-Day Group On-Line		75.00
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		1204.00	Minde Language of the Heart		150.00
Bishop Circle in the Park		57.85	Minden Language of the Heart		
Bishop High Sierra Group	69.36	160.20	Minden Saturday Night Fever		110.99
Buena Vista Group		200.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		340.00
CACYPAA		20.00	Minden Wednesday Night Live		48.60
Caliente AA		16.43	Minden/Gardnerville Group		20.22
Caring & Sharing in Stead		643.04	Mt Rose Bog Book Study	200.00	280.00
Carson After Shifters		590.70	Mt Rose Men's Group		175.00
Carson Alano Club		277.00	Mt Rose Recovery Room	245.10	1058.26
Carson Big Book Experience			NNIG Business Meeting	93.00	572.20
Carson Brown Baggers		272.00	Old Time AA		67.79
Carson Dr. Bob Nightngales			Our Common Welfare		52.40
Carson Early Birds	187.00	635.01	Our Group	176.00	376.00
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting		808.00	Out and Sober		
Carson Happy Hour		430.03	Positive Acceptance Group	300.00	1156.34
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free	195.30	633.87	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		60.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		389.89	Recien Ilegados		
Carson Men's NO BS Stag	228.00	495.00	RTC Almost Heaven	50.00	450.00
Carson Sandbaggers			RTC Aloha Group		1313.50
Carson Sisters in Sobriety	35.81	159.23	RTC Beginners are Winners	1400.00	3316.00
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station			RTC Big Book Study		
Carson Valley Gratitude			RTC How We Stay Stopped		
Carson Women's Night Out			RTC Just for Today Women		256.22
Chester Fellowship		90.00	RTC Little Rascals		50.00
Chester Saturday Night Group		115.42	RTC Men's Trudgers		389.96
Choices		400.00	RTC Monday Night Mens		790.00
Cornerstone Group		90.00	RTC New Awakenings Group		539.80
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62			RTC Sober as AF		80.00
Dayton Red Rooster			Serenity on Sundays		
Dayton Sunday Morning		572.00	Silver Springs Groups		
Decompression Chamber/online	68.02	741.90	Sisters in Sobriety		271.91
Deer Park Rebels			Sisters of Sobriety SOS		74.46
District 14		350.00	Slide Mountain Candle light Group		195.00
District 2	11.00	83.00	South Shore Group		
District 22	150.00	1098.50	South Y Group	15.00	160.00
District 6		6.00	Southside Group		1007.33
Double R at Noon			Steps to Freedom		150.00
Driar's Nickle		450.00	Step 1		61.50
Driar's Support Hose	90.00	190.00	Sunnyside Group		1570.00
Elko Exhale Group		66.15	Susanville Wed Womens		
End of the Road Group		64.30	Tahoe City Fellowship		400.00
Eye Opener		1676.00	The Blue Room		47.53
Fallon Saturday Grapevine		100.00			
Fallon Silver Lining		75.00	The Next Chapter		100.00
Fallon The Week That Was		80.00	The Rock Group		648.81
Fernley Groups		300.00	The Shop		300.00
Fireside Group		242.06	Truckee Dawn Patrol		1466.70
First Responders		200.00	Truckee Fellowship		53.82
Galena Friday Night		200.00	Truckee River Men's Stag		1500.00
Greenville Group		50.00	Verdi Greener Pastures		
Ground Zero		914.00	Verdi Meditation		125.00
Grupo Accion	10.00	80.00	Virgina City Plug in the Jug	200.00	200.00
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza		120.00	Warriors in Recovery		300.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz	10.00	80.00	Wednesday Night Beginners Meeting		
Grupo Latino		10.00	Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		500.00
Grupo Nueva Esperanza	23.00	87.00	Whole in the Soul		180.00
Grupo Nueva Dia	10.00	51.00	Westwood A.A.	83.36	83.36
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	160.00	Willing to go to any Lengths		
			Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	60.00	360.00
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	100.00	400.00	Women's Down and Dirty		205.00
Inclined to be Sober	122.86	220.22	Women's New Beginnings	225.00	1154.00
Jamesville God Grant Me		15.00	Women's New Harmony		170.00
			Young at Heart	60.25	270.25

**Total**    4,698.06    44,643.95

September 2006

Tradition Nine: Unified, Not Organized

By: John K. | New York, New York

Keeping simple simple

At a recent business meeting, my group agreed that "cross talk" could be a problem. The first proposed solution was to make another announcement at the beginning of each meeting.

"Cross talk is prohibited," we would say this time. A few dissenting voices pointed out that if we were going to prohibit cross talk, maybe we should define it. If not, newcomers wouldn't know what we were prohibiting. The matter was tabled until the next business meeting.

At the next business meeting, we discussed the proposal again, this time with a definition of cross talk added to the announcement. During an intense discussion, the number of dissenting voices increased. When we voted, we, scrapped the idea altogether.

Those of us at the business meeting learned a lot about cross talk--and no one thought it particularly desirable--but the proposed cure seemed worse than the disease. Telling recovering alcoholics what to do under the guise of another announced prohibition at meetings didn't seem advisable, especially if we first had to define what we were prohibiting.

No one specifically mentioned the Ninth Tradition during our discussions, but it hovered in the background the entire time. The Ninth Tradition cautions against excessive organization and the establishment of too many rules and regulations that deprive AA of flexibility and spontaneity. Even couched as "suggestions," the overall effect can be suffocating and counterproductive. Rules and regulations are often the essence of organization, but organization can overwhelm the message of the Third Tradition, that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Alcoholics Anonymous, as such, cannot really be organized. It exists wherever two or more people gather to seek recovery from the disease of alcoholism, utilizing the Twelve Steps. Nothing more is required. Our groups and service structure require, and permit, organization. The distinction between the lack of organization within Alcoholics Anonymous as an alcoholism recovery program, and the organization permitted, and sometimes required, within AA's groups and service structure, however, is an important distinction to keep in mind.

Page 7

The threat to the spirit of the Ninth Tradition is marked by the gradual accumulation, at various service levels, of little rules, mandates, prohibitions, announcements, and rituals that seem to increase over time. An essentially spiritual movement can eventually become as organized and structured as the military. It doesn't happen on purpose and it doesn't happen overnight. It happens by degrees. It happens over time with sometimes little awareness that it's even happening at all, until it's almost too late.

Indeed, much of the pressure to organize comes from within. In a book, dear to the history of our Fellowship, William James wrote in *The Varieties of Religious Experience*: "A survey of history shows us that, as a rule, religious geniuses attract disciples, and produce groups of sympathizers. When these groups get strong enough to 'organize' themselves, they become ecclesiastical institutions with corporate ambitions of their own. The spirit of politics and the lust of dogmatic rule are then apt to enter and to contaminate the originally innocent thing. . ."

While Alcoholics Anonymous has no strictly, religious orientation, the seduction of organization, rules, regulation, ritual, and dogma is such that each individual element of it usually appears quite harmless. It may, indeed, feel quite good in the beginning--not unlike alcohol itself.

A famous chef once said of a particular recipe, "After a certain point, it's going to be bread, no matter what you do!" So, too, after a certain point, accumulations of rules, regulations, rituals, orthodoxy, dogma, and conformity establish not just the appearance of organization, but also the substance of it. That which seemed spontaneous in the beginning becomes, over time, expected and virtually mandatory.

The founders and early members of any social or spiritual movement enjoy the confidence of their own vision. The next generation enjoys the confidence of at least thinking they know what their predecessors had in mind. However, the third generation--about where we stand now--sometimes becomes fearful to the point of preferring the certainty of rules, regulations, conformity, and dogma to the simplicity of adapting a few basic principles and traditions to the everchanging demands of staying sober in the world around us.

Such pressure needs to be resisted. Difficult as it may be--contentious, boisterous, problematic in outcome, frequently devoid of "perfect" solutions--our lack of

organization is much preferable to its alternative. Paradoxically, in the long run, it is much more enduring. Alcoholics do not react well to rules. The desire to comply with AA's recovery program must come from within or there's a good chance it won't develop at all.

The Ninth Tradition focuses on the difference between the unorganized part of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the minimally organized part necessary to maintain a service structure. The unorganized part obviously needs to remain. The organized part ought to be no more organized than necessary to do its job. Newcomers and outsiders alike, and occasionally oldtimers, too, benefit from knowledge of the distinction. Let's give our "service desks" the hand they so well deserve.

Copyright© The AA Grapevine, Inc 2006  
Reprinted with permission

### **Earning a Dream continued from p. 1**

And so to reach that dream I set a goal that I would find a way to increase my value to a potential employer and to double my value every five years by taking advantage of every opportunity to learn and develop myself. In the face of severe, chronic and life-threatening illnesses, I came to depend on the idea that God would do for me what I could not do for myself. I had no way of knowing that over the next 30 years I would find my way to retire while earning six figures.

I'm 72 years old now and while I do not have the wealth I might have had if the disease had not claimed the first 33 years of my life, I'm able to manage pretty well on Social Security and a small pension. The money that I invested during those late years of my career created a nice little nest egg for me. That little Serenity Prayer card that I picked up in 1983 is now taped onto a file box that I use for my taxes. Every time I look at it, I'm reminded of this gracious gift of sobriety.

Copyright© The AA Grapevine, Inc 2024  
Reprinted with permission

### **A Sense of Service**

**BY: PINKY H. | LONDON, ONTARIO**

Tradition Nine

Generally, when we hear the word organization, we think of a situation where there are a lot of rules, and someone with a certain amount of power governs or is in control. Out of curiosity, I decided to look in the dictionary for a definition of the word "organize," and I found that to organize means to systematically prepare or arrange for effective operation. Isn't this what has been done in AA? We have service boards and committees of varying natures that we elect or appoint and who assume responsibility without trying to take on authority, people who, because of a true sense of spiritual simplicity and service to others, effectively carry out the duties of whatever job they are asked to perform. But this sense of service doesn't only apply at the level of boards or committees. Look at the group and the people who regularly get there early and set up the meeting area, the people who make the coffee, clean up the ashtrays, sweep the floor, and carry out the other tasks just because they know they have to be done. These are only a few examples, but the same principles apply in all of AA, be it at the level of group, intergroup, or general service. As long as we have members who continue to have the best interests of AA at heart and enjoy doing the things that need to be done without any notion of power or prestige, Tradition Nine won't be any problem.

Copyright© The AA Grapevine, Inc 1998  
Reprinted with permission

Sometimes we have to find the right kind of acceptance for each day. Sometimes we need to develop acceptance for what may come to pass tomorrow, and yet again we shall have to accept a condition that may never change. Then, too, there are frequently has to be a right and realistic acceptance of grievous flaws within ourselves and serious faults within those about us – defects that may not be fully remedied for years, if ever.

*A.A. Comes of Age p.270*

*“In its deeper sense A.A. is a quest for freedom – freedom under God. Of course the immediate object of our quest is sobriety – freedom from alcohol and from all its baleful consequences. Without this freedom, we have nothing at all.”*

*A.A. Comes of Age p.315*



## RULE 62

### Tricked again

**Newcomer 1:** "The chairperson at this meeting is very strict."

**Newcomer 2:** "Why do you say that?"

**Newcomer 1:** "He said I have to clean the coffee pots because I was late to the meeting."

**Newcomer 2:** "That seems fair to me."

**Newcomer 1:** "Yeah, but the chairperson is my sponsor. He was my ride to the meeting!"

When The Hulk goes off into a vicious rage and destroys everything, he's "Incredible."  
But when I do it, I'm "an alcoholic."



One night , a newcomer took his daughter to dinner at a downtown restaurant . As they walked in the door, the first thing they saw was an enormous sign advertising what used to be his favorite beer. The man's eyes immediately widened, and he began remembering just how good the old brew tasted.

Then his daughter interrupted.  
"Oh ,look, daddy," She said, pointing to the sign. "They have Your-Life's-in-the-Toilet on tap."

Two guys were fishing from a boat in a pond. One of them saw a floating bottle and picked it up. When he pulled out the cork a genie emerged from the bottle.

"Oh, thank you, thank you," said the genie. "I've been trapped in that bottle for years. I'm going to grant you one wish as a reward for releasing me."

One of the men said, "Can you change all the water in this pond to Beer?"

"You've got it." said the genie as he vanished.

Both of the men dipped their cups into the pond for a taste. Sure enough, it was an excellent Belgian style lager.

The second man said, "Way to go, big guy! You realize that from now on we have to pee *into* the boat?"

A certain member had a slip in A.A. He called his sponsor and, crying on his shoulder and full of self-pity, he moaned , "And to think, I have lost all my pride!" "Swell ,” his sponsor bluntly remarked. "Now we can begin."



Scan here to go  
to the website

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

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

**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)