

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



February 14  
Scott L.  
Host group-  
Spring Fest

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

## THE BRACER



Highway 50

## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

### JANUARY 2026

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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 decisions 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

#### INTERVIEW WITH AN ALCOHOLIC

##### Please introduce yourself

My name is Pat S. I am an alcoholic and I live in Gardnerville.

##### Can you briefly describe your drinking?

In just two words: "pure hell." My first drink was when I was 18 years old. It was a drunk and I was off and running. My last drink was on March 4, 1980, some 46 years ago. In between those dates life was insane. Yet I was a functional drunk. I never got a DUI but when I wrecked my car (of course I was drunk) the cop who investigated was a drinking buddy. He drove me home.

##### When did you realize you had a drinking problem?

I toyed with that thought several months before joining AA. One day a co-worker gave me a bunch of A.A. pamphlets. I read them all that night, while getting drunk, of course. Just before I passed out (my usual routine) I swear there was a voice inside me that said I was finished drinking. I didn't think I was ready for that. I just wanted to drink socially. That last drunk was on gut-rot vodka mixed with warm, stale, diet strawberry soda pop. I didn't believe that voice, but it was true. I was done.

##### Have you had any strawberry soda pop since then?

Not a drop. It might trigger that craving.

##### After you read those pamphlets, what happened?

A few days later my coworker and a friend stopped by my house in Napa Valley. They 12-stepped me. They shared their stories, which were the same as mine. I thought I was the only one who did some of that crazy stuff. That definitely caught my attention. Then they dragged me to my first meeting. It was in an old Quonset hut in Napa. In fact, they called it the "Hut Group." Rain blew in through broken windows and the stench of cigarette smoke was almost unbearable. But I sure miss the Hut. I met my first sponsor at that first meeting. I was told there were at least two meetings a day at the Hut and to "keep coming back." I did.

Continued page 8



## Recovery Step : TWO

“Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity .”

## Three

### Unity

#### Tradition TWO:

“For our group purpose 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 A.A. General Service Conference, through Our Delegates, Serves as both the Voice and the Effective Conscience for All of A.A.

## **Concept II – The A.A. General Service Conference, through Our Delegates, Serves as both the Voice and the Effective Conscience for All of A.A.**

In its first twenty years, authority and responsibility for the conduct of A.A.'s affairs lay with its co-founders, Bill and Dr. Bob. At the 1955 20th Anniversary Convention in St. Louis, this was turned over to the A.A. groups worldwide. Seeing, however, that it would not be practical to expect the thousands of groups and many thousands of members to directly manage and conduct these affairs, some method of group representation was needed. After some years of operating on a trial basis, A.A.'s General Service Conference was confirmed in order to do this. The Conference became official through adoption of its Charter at the 1955 convention.

On first reading the Concepts, I had no idea what a charter is. Eventually I found that it is a document that outlines the principal functions and purposes of an organization; or, in the case of A.A., our Fellowship. As Bill states in his writing of Concept II, the Charter establishes The General Service Conference as "... the actual voice and the effective conscience or our whole society." The Conference votes on matters for us, but does so only after receiving and considering the views, ideas and opinions of local A.A. groups through our elected Conference Delegates. By this means, local groups are the essential owners of our Fellowship.

The once-a-year Conference meeting is made up of 93 Delegates from geographic areas of the U.S. and Canada. It also includes members of our General Service Board, the Directors of our two corporations, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and the Grapevine, Inc., and staff of our General Service Office and Grapevine. Approximately 135 Conference members give their time and energy to represent us and serve as the A.A. group conscience.

Until his passing in 1971, Bill continued to serve in an advisory capacity particularly to the headquarters operation, now known as our General Service Office. The GSO is charged with carrying out A.A.'s day-to-day operations. When I think of the General Service Office I think of it as making 12th Step work possible on a world-wide level. In his writing of Concept II, Bill's thinking led him to make a distinction between *ultimate* and *immediate* service authority. The 12 Concepts were written to help clarify this distinction as well as its practical implications. General Service Board members, referred to as our Trustees, include both alcoholic and non-alcoholic professionals. The Board, serving as A.A.'s legal foundation, is given a large share of active and immediate responsibility for world service affairs. But, "...the final say--the ultimate sanction in matters of large importance--has not been given to the Trustees alone." Rather, the General Services Charter gives this ultimate and broader responsibility and authority to the A.A. groups themselves, made operational through our method and process of delegate representation.

How has this worked out? My experience leads me to think that the primary basis of its success over a period of 50 years is that we are all committed to working together to serve the common good of all of A.A., and to support each other in maintaining our own personal sobriety while carrying the A.A. message to others.

*This is a 12-part series written by members of the 12 Concepts Study Group in Reno, Nevada. Efforts were made to use simple, everyday language. Each concept is written by an individual member of the group and is not necessarily the opinion of AA as a whole or NNIG. We hope this series will help our community to understand the Concepts and bring interest to those wanting to know more about them. Revised May, 2017.*

# NNIG & AREA EVENTS

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

**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



**February 14, 2026**  
**Scott L.**  
**Host Group – TBD**

**March 14, 2026**  
**Jack G.**  
**Host Group – TBD**

**April 11, 2026**  
**Matthew M.**  
**Host Group- ALOHA Group**

**May 9, 2026**  
**Laura B.**  
**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.

**AA** **NNIG PRESENTS**

## ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION

Cribbage tournament starts at 11am  
BINGO 12-1:30pm  
Corned Beef & Cabbage served noon -1:30 ONLY  
Speaker- Joanne P. 2 pm  
50/50 & Huge Raffle!!  
\$20 for corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner  
\$5 suggested contribution



**MARCH 8, 2026**

**NIEL ROAD RECREATION CENTER 3925 NEIL RD. RENO NV**

## OTHER A.A. EVENTS

# AA ANSWERING SERVICE & 12 STEP WORKSHOP



Join Us at  
**SAINT LUKES CHURCH**  
3835 LAKESIDE DRIVE  
**MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> • 11:00 AM**



Contact Heather W for more information at 702-275-7731

Nevada Area 42

# ONE-HOUR FINANCE WORKSHOP

**6 P.M. THURSDAY APRIL 23, 2026**

- WELCOME
- THE SEVENTH TRADITION: WHERE MONEY AND SPIRITUALITY MEET
- BALANCE SHEETS, P&LS AND BUDGETS OH MY
- Q&A
- SPANISH INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE

MEETING ID: 886 7771 0722  
PASSWORD: Area42

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PANEL 75 AREA TREASURY TEAM AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



PLEASE SCAN TO ACCESS P&L, BALANCE SHEET & BUDGET

# MEETINGS AND MORE

Central office report from

Ronda H. February 2026

**Book of the month**- Free reproduction of the first Big Book, spend \$10 and get a free copy- while supplies last- limit 5.

Volunteer Hours: 121 hrs.

Calls into Central Office: 114

- Calls for AA help - 2
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 0
- Meeting information - 31
- Retail / merchandise - 17
- Other 12-step programs -5
- Events – 3
- New to AA/ Talked with - 2
- Business/Central office- 54
- **Visitors – 316 -Dogs- 6**

**Texts – 6 Phone calls on the text Phone- 2**

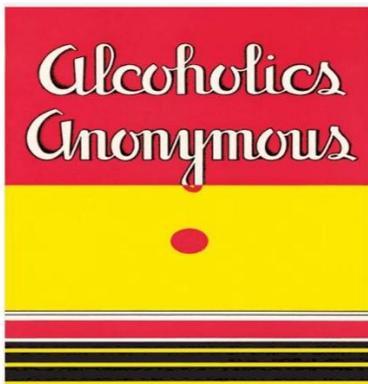
*Ronda H.  
Central Office Manager*



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**Book of the Month**

**Spend \$10 and get a FREE copy of the REPRODUCTION of the 1<sup>st</sup> printing 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Alcoholics Anonymous**



**Limit 5 per visit  
While supplies last**

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.

**Previous Birthdays**

December

Karen C. 42 Years

Cindy M. 37 Years

Sean S. 36 Years

November

Sean L. 34 Years

September

Angela-2 years

Mark H.-30 Years

Cheryl -37 Years

Dave -40 Years

Phil -49 Years

August

Linda G. 33 Years

Sue M. 30 Years

Jeff M. 30 Years

July

Jermery L. 4 Years

Joanne P. 13 Years

Finn G. 21 Years

Sandra G. 30 Years

Paul M. 34 Years

June 2025

Cassie. 3 Years

Teri G. 12 Years

Paul E. 34 Years

May

Ron T. 14 Years

Tom H. 23 Years

March

Eryn W. 2 Years

Don D. 6 Years

Kent L. 43 Years

Kim D. 43 Years



**January**

**Chip C. 42 YEARS**



“Prudence is rational concern without worry”  
As Bill sees it p.91



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**

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

**SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER 7PM**  
**1631 ESERALDA 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  
3835 Lakeside Dr. Reno NV 89509 or virtually  
ID: 831 8146 4811 PW: ZoomAA1

## 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** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

"You may not have gone to jail or prison, but you know how to stay out of it."



NNIG Corrections Committee has volunteer opportunities to take meetings into various correctional facilities.

For more information, please email Correction Chair: [luis4720nv@gmail.com](mailto:luis4720nv@gmail.com) or call NNIG Central Office at 775-355-1151.



## 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)



## 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 2026

Group	January	YTD	Group	January	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	24.02	24.02	Happy Hour Reno	366.50	366.50
A Way Home			Kingsbury Group		
Sparks Brown Baggers			Lone Pine Group	250.00	250.00
Sparks Jaywalkers	308.60	308.60	McGill NV Freedom Group		
Sparks Open Heart Open Mind			Kindred Spirits	220.00	220.00
Back Room Group			Mid-Day Group On-Line	21.92	21.92
Back to Basics Saturday Night			Minden Language of the Heart		
Beginners are Winners On-Line Gro	618.50	618.50	Minden Saturday Night Fever	319.10	319.10
Bishop Circle in the Park			Minden Stephanie Way Group		
Bishop High Sierra Group			Minden Wednesday Night Live		
Buena Vista Group			Minden/Gardnerville Group	168.00	168.00
CACYPAA			Mt Rose Men's Group		
Callente AA			Mt Rose Recovery Room	65.20	65.20
Caring & Sharing in Stead	203.85	203.85	NNIG Business Meeting	71.00	71.00
Carson After Shifters	283.91	283.91	Old Time AA		
Carson Alano Club			Our Common Welfare	81.50	81.50
Carson Big Book Babes	50.00	50.00	Our Group		
Carson Brown Baggers			Positive Acceptance Group		
Carson Early Birds	342.00	342.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group	45.00	45.00
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting	256.21	256.21	Roadside Group		
Carson Happy Hour			RTC Almost Heaven		
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free			RTC Aloha Group	645.00	645.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's	339.40	339.40	RTC Beginners are Winners	900.00	900.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag			RTC Just for Today Women		
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Little Rascals		
Chester Fellowship			RTC Men's Trudgers		
Chester Saturday Night Group			RTC Monday Night Mens	183.00	183.00
Choices			RTC New Awakenings Group	415.50	415.50
Cornerstone Group			RTC Sober as AF		
Dayton Red Rooster			Sisters in Sobriety		
Dayton Sunday Morning			Sisters of Sobriety SOS		
Decompression Chamber/online			Slide Mountain Candle light Group		
District 14			South Y Group	15.00	15.00
District 2	12.00	12.00	Southside Group	173.84	173.84
District 12	200.00	200.00	Step 1		
District 22	150.00	150.00	Steps to Freedom		
District 6			Sunnyside Group	855.00	855.00
Driar's Nickle	100.00	100.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		
Driar's Support Hose			The Blue Room		
Elko Exhale Group			The Next Chapter		
End of the Road Group			The Rock Group	212.50	212.50
Eye Opener On-line			The Shop		
Eye Opener	560.11	560.11	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Fallon Language of the Heart			Truckee Fellowship		
Fallon Saturday Grapevine			Truckee River Men's Stag		
Fallon Silver Lining			Verdi A Dedign for Living	250.00	250.00
Fallon The Week That Was	50.00	50.00	Verdi Meditation		
Fernley Groups			Virgina City Plug in the Jug		
Fireside Group			Warriors in Recovery		
First Responders			Westwood A.A.	33.00	33.00
Galena Friday Night			Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		
Greenville Group			Whole in the Soul		
Ground Zero	209.20	209.20	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		
Grupo Accion	10.00	10.00	Whole in the Ground	217.13	217.13
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza			Wednesday Beginners are Winn	133.14	133.14
Grupo La Nueva Luz			Women's Down and Dirty	99.00	99.00
Grupo Latino			Women's New Beginnings		
Grupo Nueva Dia			Women's New Harmony		
Grupo Nueva Esperanza			Young at Heart	200.00	200.00
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	40.00	40.00			
Grupo Una Vision en El Lago					
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	100.00	100.00	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,895.31</b>	<b>9,895.31</b>
Inclined to be Sober	97.18	97.18			
Jamesville God Grant Me					

without fear of ridicule, retaliation or the like.

It is also important for long-timers to realize that their opinions might carry more weight than the opinions of other group members. It is important to allow the group to work through items without exerting too much influence. Perhaps it is best that long-timers keep silent while the group speaks its mind and offer thoughts only after others have had their say. This can help guard against other members playing follow-the-leader. The comparison between the elder statesman and the bleeding deacon comes to mind here. Are you the person with the quiet, calming words of experience that make people think? Or are you the angry or manipulative power-driver, working to get people to line up behind you?

Probably the greatest enemy of the informed group conscience is prematurely calling the question. This is the one problem that I have seen the most and I think it is the most destructive of all. This practice stops the discussion and if a majority of members have decided they have heard enough to make a decision, it takes the measure directly to a vote. This is a ripe environment for a group to make a huge mistake. You might be thinking, That is why we have minority opinion. And you would be correct, that is why we have minority opinion. But hearing minority opinion is not the same as allowing open discussion because minority opinion is, by definition, one-sided.

The real problem with all of the things that damage the ability of a group to reach an informed group conscience is that individual members are left feeling marginalized and unheard. When the discussion is not allowed to completely unfold, allowing all members to be heard, there can be disagreement that remains long after the vote. This unspoken dissension can, and often does, lead to divisiveness and taking sides, which can put our group in danger.

Personal recovery does, after all, depend upon AA unity. And our one ultimate authority is God, presuming he can get a word in edgewise.

I witnessed a pretty extreme example of this a few years ago at an assembly. A proposal came out of a committee that was emotional for many people. There were more than 300 people in the room and only 30 had

## A word in edgewise

By: Chris W. | Virginia

When we're taking a group conscience, Tradition Two helps us remember to take the time and let God in.

The "informed group conscience" is a topic that I love to talk about. I believe it is one of the most important things we strive for as a Fellowship.

Tradition One reminds us that personal recovery depends upon AA unity. The informed group conscience is one of the main building blocks of that unity. Tradition Two states that our single, ultimate authority is a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. So, the group conscience is how God has a voice in our decisions. In other words, if there is no group conscience, God can't get a word in edgewise.

The group conscience is the collective conscience of all the group members. An informed group conscience requires that all information be shared before a vote is taken. It requires that we listen to minority opinions with an open mind and that we treat all members of the group as equals. It requires us to practice all of AA's principles in our interactions with other group members and to use caution when dealing with dominant opinions. It requires a willingness to work with patience and tolerance for each other, sometimes discussing things many times before a final decision is made. Many of us have exclaimed, what an order!

One of the most important things to enable the informed group conscience is a safe environment that invites all to share as equals. We should always refrain from reactions after a group member shares a point of view. Cheering, clapping, booing and other outbursts can make some members feel afraid to share. While I personally have never had a problem with being shy or being afraid to share, I am aware that others might. Newcomers are particularly susceptible to this, but there are a lot of people who won't speak up if they are afraid of being ridiculed or of making others angry. Many of us do not like confrontation, so it's important that we create a loving environment; a place where everyone feels safe to express themselves

Interview with an alcoholic continuedA word in edgewise continued**Tell me about the service things you've done and your favorite.**

My first service came about two weeks into sobriety. I was asked to stay after the meeting and help clean up. My job: clean the ash trays (old tuna cans). Such a simple thing, but I felt welcomed. I went on to be of service at the group, district, and area levels. Perhaps my favorite job was as Area 42 newsletter editor. Being a retired journalist it came naturally.

**Anything else?**

Yes. I urge anybody in AA to attend at least one of the International Conventions. I've been to six. They are held every five years somewhere in the United States or Canada. I'm a retired writer, yet I just can't find words that adequately describe the emotions, the spirituality and the pure love found at one of these conventions. Just imagine 30,000 recovered alcoholics from all over the world joining hands for a closing prayer. I've cried every time.

AA brought me back to God, who I had abandoned. Today I wake up every morning, instead of coming to. And for that I am deeply grateful.

*Interviewed on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

Here I try to achieve a state of joyful gratitude. When such a brand of gratitude is repeatedly affirmed and pondered, it can finally displace the natural tendency to congratulate myself on whatever progress I may have been enabled to make in some areas of living. I try hard to hold fast to the truth that a full and thankful heart cannot entertain great conceits. When brimming with gratitude, one's heartbeat must surely result in outgoing love, the finest emotion that we can ever know.

spoken when someone angrily called the question, with 50 or more people lined up at microphones. The question was called, the vote was taken and that was it.

As you might expect, the issue did not die there. It remained a divisive issue for the following year when the assembly corrected its mistake. I don't know if the vote would have been changed if the discussion been able to be completed, but I do believe that the division would not have been so great. There was gossip and hurt feelings and divisions among friends. All this was caused by the squelching of those voices left in line at the microphone.

The informed group conscience is about more than a count of "yes" and "no" votes. It is the spiritual expression of the collective group. It takes great care to arrive at that expression in a way that respects each individual, as well as the autonomy of the group. Practicing all of our principles in all of our affairs to the best of our ability is the only path.

Second Tradition Checklist:

- Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
- Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with any AA Twelfth Step job or other AA responsibility?
- Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
- Do I have to save face in group discussions, or can I yield in good spirit to the group consensus and work cheerfully along with it?
- Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
- In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

When I wake up in the morning, 80 percent of the things in my head are none of my business."



## RULE 62

A man is in a bar talking to his friend. "Last night, while I was out drinking, a burglar broke into my house while my wife was sleeping."

"Did he get anything?" asks his friend.

"Yes," says the man. "A broken jaw, six teeth knocked out, and a pair of broken ribs."

"Yikes," says his friend. "I didn't know your wife was that brave and tough?"

"She's not," says the man. "She thought it was me coming home drunk."

A doctor is speaking to a patient after an examination. "There are two reasons for your poor health," he says. "Drinking and smoking."

"That's excellent news," the patient says, sighing in relief. "I thought you were going to say it was my fault!"

### Pick your poison

There's a guy sitting at a bar, just looking at his drink. He stays like that for half an hour. Soon, a big trouble-making truck driver steps next to him, takes the drink from the guy, and just drinks it all down.

The poor man starts crying. The truck driver says, "Come on man, I was just joking. Here, I'll buy you another drink. I just can't stand seeing a man crying."

"No, it's not that. This day is the worst of my life. First, I fall asleep, and I'm late to my office. My boss, in an outrage, fires me. When I left the building to my car, I found out it was stolen."

"The police say they can do nothing. I get a cab to return home and when I leave it, I remember I left my wallet and credit cards there. The cab driver just drives away. I go home and when I get there, I find my wife in bed with the gardener. I leave home and come to this bar."

"And when I was thinking about putting an end to my life, you show up and drink my poison"

A drunk phones the police to report that thieves have been in his car. "They've stolen the dashboard, the steering wheel, the brake pedal, even the accelerator," he cries out... "Oh wait," he says. "I'm in the back seat."

A piece of string walks into a bar and is told they don't serve string. He goes outside, ruffles himself up, ties himself in a loop, and walks back in. The bartender asks, "Aren't you that string I just kicked out?" The string says, "No, I'm a frayed knot."



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