

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



March 14
Jack G.
Host group-
Kings Beach

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

THE BRACER



Ruby Mountains

MARCH 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

How I learned to love "To Wives"

By: Dan C. | Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

He used to roll his eyes and groan. But not anymore. For the past 12 years, I have been regularly attending a Big Book group every Friday night. Our group cycles through the book about every six months. So at least twice a year I would groan (and not always internally) when the chairperson announced Chapter Eight—"To Wives"—as the evening's reading.

I am happy to report that I have come a long way from my early days in the program, when I contemptuously viewed the entire Big Book as a somewhat quaint reflection of a much simpler time. I have, however, stubbornly held on to that opinion about Chapter Eight. I wanted that chapter rewritten, brought up to a more "modern" standard.

Until recently, that is.

My epiphany began during a reading of Chapter Ten—"To Employers." The idea that the alcoholic should not be shielded from the consequences of his or her behavior is based on sound reasoning and has driven many into a recovery process that further coddling could have delayed by years, perhaps even forever. But this is in direct contrast to Chapter Eight's advice to "cheerfully see (your husband) through more sprees," and if he slips again, "cheer him up and ask him how you can be still more helpful" next time. Those statements no doubt elicited the same snickers and eye-rolling from readers back then that they do now.

Continued page 8

AA's

Recovery Step : Three

“Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand Him.”

Three

Unity
Tradition TWO:
“The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.”

Legacies

Service
Concept Three
Right of Decision Applies to all Levels of Participation in the Structure of A.A. World Services.

Concept III – Right of Decision Applies to all Levels of Participation in the Structure of A.A. World Services.

Right of Decision means that our A.A. trusted servants are expected to interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each problem situation or decision as it arises. Concept 3 makes it clear that when we are elected or appointed to a service job, we are given the responsibility to both represent the body that elected us while also making decisions based the best and most complete information available, and on what we see as best for A.A. as a whole. Here are two examples of situations where a group representative is called on to exercise this right of decision.

First: When presented with an issue or matter of concern, the service representative decides whether to bring this to the group he or she represents, based on such judgments as importance, urgency, whether the matter might or might not be of interest to the group, or whether the group’s judgment is important in the overall decision of the Fellowship.

Second: After taking a group conscience about a matter, the representative follows up by taking the group’s view to the next service level. In doing so, it is important to discuss and listen to others outside the represented group who may have additional knowledge, information, or views on the matter. When it comes to a voting decision at this next level, it is important to consider both the represented group’s viewpoint and to be open to new and different ideas. By listening to all sources of information, and relying on his or her own principled judgment, the representative is able to make a more fully informed decision. In this sense, Concept 3 requires a representative to both speak up for the group and to listen closely and carefully to what others have to say. Bill grants that the “right of decision” can be abused, but also discusses several methods of correcting abuse, inefficiency or ineffectiveness among our trusted servants. He is confident that we need not have the slightest fear of granting this right of decision to every level of world service.

If a trusted servant votes or otherwise decides differently from the conscience of the represented body, it is important to report this action back to that body, along with the reasons for it. I offer an example from my own experience as a GSR. I was asked to take a matter to my group, which I did. They expressed a group conscience to me. When I returned to the next service meeting, however, more information was presented. This changed my view on the topic and the way I voted. I explained how and why I voted this way at the next group business meeting. Some members of the group agreed with my action and others did not. Still, I was confident that I did my job as a trusted servant effectively as I was clear in my own conscience that I voted for what was in the best interest of A.A. as a whole.

As Bill says in his writing on the Concept, the right of decision is what makes us trusted servants in A.A. rather just group messengers.

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 2nd 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



March 14, 2026
Jack G. Huntington Beach, CA
Host Group – Kings Beach Group

April 11, 2026
Matthew M. Issaquah, WA
Host Group- ALOHA Group

May 9, 2026
Laura B. Austin, TX
Host Group – Just for Today Women’s Meeting

June 13, 2026
Kate – Reno, NV
Host Group – Cornerstone

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 28TH • 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: 93.5 hrs.

Calls into Central Office: 114

- Calls for AA help - 6
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 0
- Meeting information - 45
- Retail / merchandise - 17
- Other 12-step programs - 2
- Events – 4
- New to AA/ Talked with - 0
- Business/Central office- 32
- Visitors – 262 -Dogs- 3

Texts – 3 Phone calls on the text Phone- 1

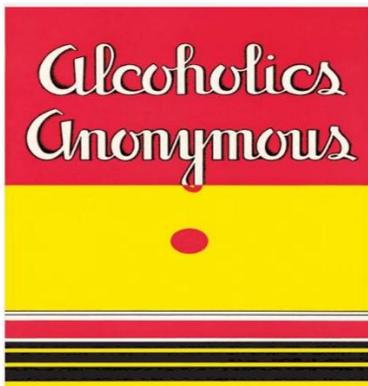
*Ronda H.
Central Office Manager*



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Book of the Month

Spend \$10 and get a **FREE** copy of the **REPRODUCTION** of the 1st printing 1st 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
Deadline for submission is the last Friday of the month.



January
Chip C. 42 Years



Birthdays for the month of February 2026
Jack W. 42 Years
Tom C. 45 Years

Previous Birthdays

December
Karen C. 42 Years
Cindy M. 32 Years
Sean S. 36 Years

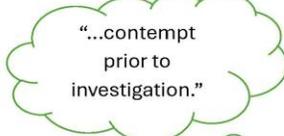
November
Sean L. 34 Years

September
Angela 2 years
Mark H. 30 Years
Dave 40 Years
Phil 49 Years

August
Linda G. 33 Years
Joanne P. 15 years
Ann G. 21 Years
Sandra G. 30 years
Paul M. 34 Years

May
Ron T. 14 Years
Tom H. 25 years

March
Eryn W. 2 Years
Don D. 6 Years
Kent L. 42 Years
Kim D. 48 years




Vinnie G.



Did you know you can share your sobriety and gratitude in a practical way by joining the A.A. Birthday Club? Sign Up today be featured in the Bracer
Birthday Club section of the Bracer
Show your Support for your NNIG & Central Office.
Join the Birthday Club.
A donation of only one dollar for every year of your sobriety.
Envelopes available at Central Office.
NNIG Business Meeting or Intergroup Representatives

Come join the Sunnyside Group
as we celebrate our **39th Anniversary**
with a **Pancake Breakfast and April Birthday Meeting**

Saturday, April 25th, 2026, at 8:00 AM
627 Sunnyside Drive, Reno NV.

Please bring a side dish to share such as breakfast casseroles (preheat at home if needed), sausages, fruit, juice or pastries. Most importantly, bring yourselves for great fellowship.

Our April Birthday meeting begins at 9:30 AM.





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



Five N Live
Saturday 5:15 PM
Alano Club
680 River St.
Elko, 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
 2nd Saturday of the month
N.N.I.G. H&I
 Call Central Office
 775-355-1511

CENTRAL OFFICE

IS OPEN ON SATURDAY
 FROM 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM!
 STOP IN FOR A CUP OF COFFEE
 AND FELLOWSHIP!

District Meetings

- DISTRICT-2** 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 Central Office
- DISTRICT 4** Fourth Thursday of every other even month, 6:00 pm
 Central Office OR Zoom ID: 819 5830 2884
 PW: bestdamnd4
- DISTRICT 6** 2nd Sunday of even numbered months-
 For information email district6@nevadaarea42.org
- DISTRICT 8** First Sunday, 3:30 p.m. on odd months
 Call [\(760\) 937-8407](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** 3rd Wed of each "Odd" month at 6:00 PM -265
 Bear Street in Kings Beach CA
- DISTRICT 16** Meeting is held 3rd Tuesday of the month 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 for location
- DISTRICT 22** 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month 6:30 PM @
 Central Office

AREA CLUBS

Reno / Sparks Clubs

Driars Club Reno 345 S. Wells Avenue (775) 324-9210
 Triangle Club Reno 635 S Wells Avenue (775) 324-7977

Clubs outside Reno/Sparks Area

Alano Club Carson City, 1800 HWY 50 East (775) 882-0443
 Bishop Alano Club (760) 873-6700
 Elko Alano Club (775) 738-4747
 Las Vegas Triangle Club (702) 435-0597
 South Lake Tahoe (530) 541-1243

AA AREA 42 TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



ALL AREA 42 MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO HELP
 TRANSLATE MINUTES, EMAILS, GUIDELINES, ETC.
 PROFICIENCY IN SPANISH **NOT**
 REQUIRED! IN FACT, YOU DON'T EVEN
 NEED TO SPEAK SPANISH.

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

FOR MEETING ID & PASSCODE:
 please contact the email below

Questions? ... email
translator_interpreter@nevadaarea42.org
 Ask that someone from the translation
 committee contact you.

"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 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 12th 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



Third Step Prayer

*God, I offer myself to thee , to do with thee as thy wilt. Relieve
 me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take
 away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness
 to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy love, Thy way of life.
 May I do Thy will Always! Amen*

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2026

Group	February	YTD	Group	February	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	5.21	29.23	Happy Hour Reno		366.50
A Way Home	526.96	526.96	Kingsbury Group		
Sparks Brown Baggers			Lone Pine Group		250.00
Sparks Jaywalkers		308.60	McGill NV Freedom Group		
Sparks Open Heart Open Mind			Kindred Spirits		220.00
Back Room Group			Mid-Day Group On-Line	24.30	46.07
Back to Basics Saturday Night			Minden Language of the Heart		
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		618.50	Minden Saturday Night Fever		319.10
Bishop Circle in the Park			Minden Stephanie Way Group		
Bishop High Sierra Group			Minden/Gardnerville Wednesday	77.80	77.80
Buena Vista Group			Mt Rose Big Book Study	250.00	250.00
CACYPAA			Minden/Gardnerville Group	397.33	565.33
Callente AA			Mt Rose Men's Group		
Caring & Sharing in Stead		203.85	Mt Rose Recovery Room	375.20	440.40
Carson After Shifters		283.91	NNIG Business Meeting	74.00	145.00
Carson Alano Club			Old Time AA		
Carson Only Way Home	260.00	260.00	Our Common Welfare	31.50	113.00
Carson Big Book Babes		50.00	Our Group	165.00	165.00
Carson Brown Baggers	136.75	136.75	Portola Group	300.00	300.00
Carson Early Birds		342.00	Positive Acceptance Group	186.20	186.20
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting		256.21	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		45.00
Carson Happy Hour			Roadside Group		
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free			RTC Almost Heaven	50.00	50.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's			RTC Aloha Group		645.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag	73.00	73.00	RTC Beginners are Winners		900.00
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Just for Today Women		
Chester Fellowship	136.00	136.00	RTC Little Rascals		
Chester Saturday Night Group			RTC Men's Trudgers		
Cold Springs Book Study	318.23	318.23	RTC Monday Night Mens		183.00
Choices			Serenity on Sundays	500.00	500.00
Cornerstone Group			RTC New Awakenings Group		415.50
Dayton Red Rooster			RTC Sober as AF		
Dayton Sunday Morning			Sisters in Sobriety		
Decompression Chamber/online			Sisters of Sobriety SOS		
District 14			Slide Mountain Candle light Group		
District 2	10.00	22.00	South Y Group	15.00	30.00
District 12		200.00	Southside Group	183.08	356.92
District 22	150.00	300.00	Step 1		
District 6			Steps to Freedom		
Driar's Nickle	100.00	200.00	Sunnyside Group		855.00
Driar's Support Hose			Tahoe City Fellowship		
Elko Exhale Group			The Blue Room	146.40	146.40
End of the Road Group			The Next Chapter		
Eye Opener On-line			The Rock Group		212.50
Eye Opener		560.11	The Shop		
Fallon Language of the Heart			Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Fallon Saturday Grapevine			Truckee Fellowship		
Fallon Silver Lining			Truckee River Men's Stag	500.00	500.00
Fallon The Week That Was		50.00	Verdi A Dedign for Living		250.00
Fernley Groups			Verdi Meditation		
Fireside Group			Virgina City Plug in the Jug		
First Responders			Warriors in Recovery		
Galena Friday Night			Westwood A.A.		33.00
Greenville Group	50.00	50.00	Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		
Ground Zero		209.20	Whole in the Soul		
Grupo Accion		10.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers	60.00	60.00
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza			Whole in the Ground		217.13
Grupo La Nueva Luz			Wednesday Beginners are Winners		133.14
Grupo Latino			Women's Down and Dirty		
Grupo Nueva Dia	10.00	10.00	Women's New Beginnings		99.00
Grupo Nueva Esperanza	36.00	36.00	Women's New Harmony		
Genoa Roadside Group	96.00	96.00	Young at Heart	0.40	200.40
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	60.00			
Grupo Una Vision en El Lago	5.00	5.00			
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio		100.00			
Inclined to be Sober		97.18			
Jamesville God Grant Me					
			Total	5,269.36	15,164.52

How I learned to love "to Wives" continued

So how did they pass through what was, by all accounts, a very rigorous editing process back in the late 1930s? I think I know why, and this realization has helped me to gain an even deeper appreciation of the Big Book.

Though many of the early AAs had no employers, most still had wives. Can they really be blamed if they hedged their bets a bit by asking the wife to take it easy on the old man if he came home drunk? No doubt they were thinking of themselves in that position, but aren't they deserving of a pass for this small dose of self-centered fear?

Pull back the curtain of 75 years of AA history to the time when the Big Book was written. Bill, Dr. Bob, Hank P. and the other contributors were self-described average Americans. They were not temperance crusaders, religious zealots or even idealists. They were drunks, just like us. They had their doubts, their fears and their feet of clay. They lacked the benefit of the hindsight that we enjoy today.

In 1939, the Twelve Steps were nascent; there were few groups, no GSO and certainly no support systems for family members. Alcoholics were pariahs, alcoholism commonly viewed as a weakness and the hospitalization for it was a harrowing and frequently ineffective experience.

At that time, Bill and Bob each had a little over four years of continuous sobriety. Not too many others came close to matching that length of time since their last drink. In Bill's own words, they had some distressing failures while working with others. In the midst of this distress, it stands to reason that many of them at least wondered if they were next.

Remember, the Big Book isn't a product of years of funded research, at least not in the traditional sense. It wasn't written by clergy or psychiatrists. It was written by alcoholics who had worked the AA program. Because of that fact, the words found in the text result from actual experience, not from theory or guesswork.

For example, the Promises that follow the process in many of the Steps are there because the first AAs experienced them. When we read how they were placed in a position of neutrality with alcohol, safe and

protected, their experience assures us that this can also be true for us—provided we do the work required.

When we feel the benefits of daily prayer and meditation, we can take comfort knowing that we are on the same spiritual journey that the early AAs traveled. And most importantly, the need to pass on this message is made clear. By carrying the message, the early AAs maintained their sobriety and sustained the program. If we want what they had, there are clear-cut directions from them on how to get it.

Isn't the real story how frequently they placed themselves (and us) on the hook with terms like "rigorous honesty," "total abandon," "entirely ready" and other similar phrases that implied complete commitment when describing the program, rather than their sole flinch in front of their very last line of defense, their spouses? It's not for nothing that one of the other chapters is titled "We Agnostics."

A woman who is an avid golfer was at our Big Book meeting one night when the "To Wives" chapter was read. She compared the chapter to being on a golf course with certain holes that she hated to play but played them anyway because that's the way the course was laid out. That is a good analogy for me. While I used to think this chapter needed to be rewritten, I now see that it is fine just the way it is. It reminds me that the people who wrote this book were alcoholic, like me. Since they found a way of living that works for them, it stands to reason that it will work for me as well.

And parts of Chapter Eight are as fresh and as spot-on as the rest of our book. The chapter includes the four stages of progression, which I have found useful when working with others. The picture it paints in its opening paragraphs, that of the household in pandemonium from living with an active alcoholic, serves as a warning to me. While my wife and son have never seen me drunk, the vividness of those words increases my desire to never visit such a situation upon them.

In just a few more weeks, my Friday night Big Book friends will once again be diving into this chapter. I won't make other plans for that night, nor will I groan and roll my eyes at the start of the meeting. My having to read

some thinly veiled alcoholic equivocating twice a year in exchange for the multitude of powerful words elsewhere is a trade I would make every day.

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Tradition 3

Do I Really Belong?

BY: BILL R. | ALBANY, NEW YORK

When your story isn't like others'

Most of the personal stories we hear at meetings and read in the Grapevine follow the same plot line: "I started drinking at a young age and, in time--sometimes a long time--became an alcoholic." Rarely do we encounter a person who started drinking seriously after the age of twenty-five or thirty.

Well, I am such a person. I didn't begin my drinking career until I turned thirty. Before that time, I drank so little that even being called a "social drinker" was a misnomer.

When I first began attending AA meetings, I waited anxiously for someone to tell my story. As the months passed, I even questioned whether I was correct in calling myself an alcoholic. Even worse, I soon realized that my drinking history wasn't like most of the others. I never got a DWI, never had a blackout, never spent time in a rehab, never ended up in a drunk tank, etc. "What is wrong with me?" I pondered this conundrum for a while before I came to realize that, despite the many differences I seemed to feel so acutely, there were also many similarities.

For example, at the end of my drinking, I overcame denial and admitted I was powerless over alcohol and that my life had become unmanageable. The amount I drank increased over the years of drinking. I switched from vodka to beer to wine, repeatedly attempting to control my drinking. I drank for twenty-five years, almost every day. I tried stopping this daily routine many times. I rarely got blind drunk, but always stayed at least a little high. My paranoid fears of "losing control" around other people probably prevented me from becoming a daily drunk.

The Third Tradition reminds us that the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. It doesn't say our

stories must follow a specific chronology. Many roads lead to alcoholism. Many streams lead to the same river.

I believe the genius of AA is in the meetings. They constantly reinforce our sobriety and allow people to talk directly or indirectly about the feelings and emotions behind their alcoholism. And where else can you get an hour like this for whatever amount of money you want to put in the donation basket?

In the meetings, I learned that I am an alcoholic, despite my early doubts. Although my journey to AA wasn't like that of most alcoholics, I am still gladly accepted. I share my experience, strength, and hope just like everybody else. I have a desire to stop drinking.

Mine may be a different story, but the AA program is wise enough to embrace me, too.

A passage from Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions puts it like this: "You are an AA member if you say so. You can declare yourself in; nobody can keep you out. No matter who you are, no matter how low you've gone, no matter how grave your emotional complications--even your crimes--we still can't deny you AA. We don't want to keep you out. . . so you're an AA member the minute you declare yourself."

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Faced with alcoholic destruction, we became open-minded on spiritual matters. In this respect alcohol; was a great persuader . It finally beat us into a state of reasonableness.

Big Book p.48

You ever drink so much you have to sit in a circle and talk about it for the rest of your life?



RULE 62



I got drunk at an AA meeting
The details are a bit fuzzy but they
said I was the life of the party. They
invited me to come back every
Thursday.

When I was a teenager, my friends
and I got into my father's liquor
cabinet and drank half a fifth of
Kentucky bourbon.

Instead of filling it back up with
water, I thought it'd be safer to take
the risk that he wouldn't remember,
rather than offend his taste. He just
might think he drank it.

But the next day my father called
me and said, "Son, why is my bottle
of bourbon half empty?"

The only answer I could think to
say was, "Because you're a
pessimist."

I went out drinking last St.
Patrick's Day so I took the
bus home.



That might not be a big deal
to you but I've never driven a
bus before!

A father was puzzled when his 16-year-old son
pulled up in the driveway at the wheel of a new
sports car. "Where on earth did you get this
car?" the dad asked.

"I just bought it for \$15 from the lady down the
street," replied the boy.

Intrigued, the father walked over to the
woman's house and found her calmly tending
her garden. "Excuse me," he said, "but my son
just told me that you sold him a new car for
\$15."

"That's right," the woman replied. "My no-
good, drunken husband ran off to Hawaii with
his latest girlfriend and texted me that he's
never coming back and asked me to sell his car
and send him the money. So I did!"



How do you get an alcoholic to
do the 12 steps?
Tell him he can't do them.

If you get in a spot where you think there's
no hope, remember the lobsters in that
tank in the restaurant of the Titanic.

A scientist walks into an AA meeting. "I've just
invented a cure for alcoholism! Take one of these
pills and you'll never be a problem drinker again!"
An attendee replies: "What happens if you take
two?"



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