

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



May 9, 2026
 Laura B.
 Host group-
 Just for Today
 Women's
 Meeting

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

MAY 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meeting of the Month	1
Concept 5	2
Events	3
Book of the Month	4
Showcase Meetings and more	4
Birthdays	4
Service Opportunities	5
Group Contributions	6
One Morning on the Beach Step 5	7
Tradition 5	7
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 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

THE BRACER



Michael J. Semas Collection

MAIN ST., CHESTER, CALIF.

J.H. EASTMAN B-1045

Chester, CA

NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

Each Month we will be having a "Meeting of the Month" this is to showcase a new or old meeting that might need support. If you would like to have your meeting be a "Meeting of the Month" please contact Central Office.

"Meeting of the Month"

THE BUENA VISTA GROUP

Fridays 10AM 627 Sunnyside Dr. Reno

A little History...

The Buena Vista group was started in March of 1984 at the request of the minister of the church. One of its members was newly sober, about six months, and he thought it would help with his recovery, and he wanted to get more initialization out of the church grounds.

The initial meeting had 13 members in attendance and cookies were the main attraction to people at the meeting. It became the cookie meeting for some time.

At the end of the meeting a quick business meeting was held to name the group and choose a secretary and GSR. One of the members said he lived on Buena Vista Street and thought it might be a good name since it translated as a pretty view and might be appropriate for a recovery name. It was accepted and a secretary and GSR were chosen.

The meeting was held in the Christian Education Building of the church and grew in attendance to the point that it had 25 members coming each week. Dennis K. was the first group secretary and held that position for the first year and then rotated out. In 1997 the annex building was completed, and the group relocated to it and has remained there ever since.

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.

AA's

Recovery

Step : Five

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

Three

Unity

Tradition Five:

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

Legacies

Service

Concept Five

Right of Appeal Assures that Minority Opinion will be Heard and that Personal Grievances will be Addressed.

Concept V – Right of Appeal Assures that Minority Opinion will be Heard and that Personal Grievances will be Addressed.

Throughout his writing on the Twelve Concepts our expresses an underlying principle on which the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous is based , that it always be democratic in spirit, thought and action. Maintaining a “Right of Appeal” is important to this. Appeal provides for a response when there is disagreement with any action, or when any procedure is thought to fall too far short of the democratic ideal Bill envisioned.

While at my first General Service Area Assembly, I was surprised to find that taking a vote on a matter did not always bring an end to the discussion. After the vote was taken , the Chairperson kept the discussion open by asking whether anyone who had voted in the minority, the losing side , wanted to speak further. This was a purposeful and planned exercise of the right of appeal. It added assurance that all options were adequately heard and had not been overrun by an impatient majority. As I continued to attend Assemblies, I witnessed several situations in which an expressed minority opinion changed the eventual outcome and led to a much better decision.

As Bill says it, “ To increase the actual spirit of democracy by special deference to minority opinion is, we think, better than to follow blindly the rule which always insists on an unqualified dominance by slight majority vote”. Bill recognizes that a majority vote may not always lead to the best, fairest, most appropriate or right decision.

Applications of the right of appeal include the right to petition. This becomes important when any minority, or even a majority, feels that a decision was made by someone who may not have had the authority to make that decision, when a decision is made without adequate debate and discussion , or when the decision is felt to be wrong or not in the best interest of the whole of A.A. Bill says that in A.A.’s world services both appeal and petition have always been used well. “Right of Appeal” includes the right of an A.A. employee or member to appeal and request a hearing regarding a personal grievance. One of the underlying principles of the right of appeal is that we respect everyone’s experiences as well as what they have to say based on those experiences .Even if they might be wrong, they have a right to be heard and, many times, they have a better idea than what the majority thought best.

Some of the enemies of the spirit of democracy include impatience, apathy, self-seeking , uninformed or angry majorities, and the exercise of too much power. Bill says that A.A. has no room for any of these.

Bill reminds us in the text of Concept V that any alcoholic can be a member of A.A. the moment he says he is. He has a right to belong no matter what he thinks or believes. “ Ours is indeed a large charter of minority privileges and liberties.” Appeal is a method for assuring that these liberties and privileges are always respected and maintained as we work together in A.A. service

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

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



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

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

July 11, 2026
Speaker- TBD
Host Group – Sunnyside Group

August 8, 2026
Speaker- TBD
Host Group-Sisters of Sobriety

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.

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

NNIG
FOUNDER'S DAY
SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026
 starts at 11am
RANCHO SAN RAFAEL PARK
 1595 NORTH SIERRA STREET • RENO, NV 89503
 PEAVINE PAVILION
 Burgers and hot dogs provided
 * Dessert Potluck (Please Bring a Dish) *
 * \$5 Suggested Contribution *

OTHER A.A. EVENTS

South Shore Group
4TH STEP WORKSHOP
Saturday May 16th @10:30
 Sharon M and Sandra B
 Will be facilitating workshop
 "RARELY HAVE WE SEEN A PERSON WHO HAS THOROUGHLY FOLLOWED OUR PATH"
 KEEP IT SIMPLE

Reno Spring Festival
 Friday May 15 ~ Saturday May 16, 2026
 Sunday May 17 Golf Tournament
 J Resort ~ 345 N. Arlington Ave. Reno, NV 89501
 To register online: renospringfest2026.eventbrite.com
 Pre-register by May 1st to save! Tickets \$20 before May 1st and increase to \$25 after
 Pre-registration for Saturday's Al-Anon luncheon (\$31/person) and Sunday's shotgun start golf tournament (\$85/person)
 Call the J Resort at (866)386-7829 use code "renospring2026" to secure a discounted room rate of \$109 +fees/taxes per night

FRIDAY • MAY 15
 4:00PM—8:00PM

SATURDAY • MAY 16
 8:30AM—8:30PM

5:30 PM Opening Speaker (Fletcher - Reno, NV)	8:45 AM Al-Anon Spiritual Walk	2:15 PM Al-Anon Meeting
5:30 PM Al-Anon Panel Meeting	9:30 AM AA Panel	3:15 PM Al-Anon Panel
7:00 PM Main Speaker (Jillie A. - Nashville, TN)	10:00 AM Al-Anon Meeting	3:30 PM Spanish Speaker
	11:00 AM YPAA Speaker (Mo - Sacramento, CA)	4:30 PM Dinner Break
	11:45 PM Al-Anon Luncheon Buffet	4:30 PM Al-Anon Speaker
	1:00 PM Al-Anon Speaker (Diane A - Nashville, TN)	7:00 PM Main Speaker (Debbie D - Concord, CA)
	2:15 PM AA Meeting	8:15 PM Raffle

SCAN to Register online

All attendees must register. Badges are required to attend. All meetings are non-smoking. No refunds.

To register by mail, return this form and your payment to: 10580 N McCarran Blvd #115, PMB 404, Reno, NV 89703

Name:	Registration:	Cost:	Quantity:	Total:
	Al-Anon Speaker	\$20		\$
	Reno Spring Festival Golf Tournament Registration	\$85		\$
	Al-Anon Luncheon	\$31		\$
	Donation			\$
Total Amount Included \$				

MEETINGS AND MORE

Central office report from

Ronda H. April 2026

Books from AAWS have been changed , however the book of the month is the Big Book. \$2 OFF

Volunteer Hours: 108 hrs.

Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help - 7
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 2
- Meeting information - 40
- Retail / merchandise - 18
- Other 12-step programs - 1
- Events – 4
- New to AA/ Talked with - 4
- Business/Central office- 36
- **Visitors –267 -Dogs- 6**



Texts – 5 Phone calls on the text Phone- 3

Ronda H.
Central Office Manager



MARCH 2026

Rent L. 44 YEARS

Darrell S. 19 YEARS

Kim D. 49 YEARS

Previous Birthdays

February

Jack W. 34 Years

Tom C. 33 Years

January

Chip C. 42 Years

December

Karen C. 42 Years

Cindy M. 37 Years

Sean S. 36 Years

November

Sean L. 34 Years

October

Sharon P. 41 Years

September

Angela 2 years

Mark H. 30 Years

Dave 40 Years

Phil 49 Years

August

Linda G. 33 Years

Joanne P. 13 years

Ann G. 21 Years

Dandra G. 30 years

Paul M. 34 Years

May

Ron T. 14 Years

Tom H. 23 years





Birthdays for the month April of 2026

Nancy M. 33 Years

Ron T. 13 Years

“We are people who normally would not mix.”

Big Book p.17



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



SOUTH SHORE GROUP

Saturday Night SPEAKER SERIES



MAY 23
SATURDAY

with **Pete P.**
from Reno



MEETING STARTS AT
6:30 PM



DOORS OPEN AT
5:45 PM



Dessert
BUFFET

★ Hope, Fellowship, Recovery ★

972B TALLAC AVENUE
SLT (SOUTH LAKE TAHOE)

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & RECOVERY ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Open Heart
Open Mind
Woman's
Meeting
Sunday
3:30pm
424
Greenbrae Dr.
Sparks NV**

**Women's
New
Beginnings
Tuesday &
Friday NOON
501
California
Ave
Reno NV**

For more event information contact Central Office @ 355-1151 or nnig.org

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 times 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



Fifth Step Prayer

**Higher Power, My inventory has shown me who I am , yet I
 ask for help in admitting my wrongs to another person and to
 You. Assure me, and be with me in this Step, for without this
 Step I cannot progress in my recovery. With Your help, I can
 do this , and I will do this.**

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2026

Group	April	YTD	Group	April	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	0.68	50.88	Happy Hour Reno	300.00	666.50
A Way Home		526.96	Kindred Spirits		220.00
Sparks Brown Baggers			Kingsbury Group		
Sparks Jaywalkers	214.50	753.97	Lone Pine Group		250.00
Sparks Open Heart Open Mind	346.50	346.50	McGill NV Freedom Group		
Sparks Sunshine Group	186.80	186.80	Mid-Day Group On-Line		62.81
Back Room Group		217.49	Minden Language of the Heart		50.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night	243.00	243.00	Minden Saturday Night Fever	250.00	569.10
Beginners are Winners On-Line Gro	535.50	1154.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		375.00
Bishop Circle in the Park		14.00	Minden/Gardnerville Group		565.33
Bishop High Sierra Group			Minden/Gardnerville Wednesday Night Live		77.80
Blairsdan Graegle Sisters in Recovery		100.00	Mt Rose Big Book Study		250.00
Buena Vista Group			Mt Rose Men's Group		
CACYPAA			Mt Rose Recovery Room	195.20	635.60
Caliente AA			NNIG Business Meeting	74.35	299.35
Caring & Sharing in Stead		426.58	Old Time AA		50.00
Carson After Shifters		283.91	Our Common Welfare	80.00	286.00
Carson Alano Club			Our Group		165.00
Carson Only Way Home		260.00	Portola Group	100.00	400.00
Carson Big Book Babes		50.00	Positive Acceptance Group		186.20
Carson Brown Baggers		136.75	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		45.00
Carson Early Birds		342.00	Roadside Group		
Carson Early Birds Phone Meeting		256.21	RTC Almost Heaven	48.53	98.53
Carson Happy Hour			RTC Aloha Group	986.00	1631.00
Carson Happy, Joyous and Free		17.38	RTC Beginners are Winners		900.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		339.40	RTC For the Effect		230.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag	120.00	193.00	RTC Just for Today Women		121.95
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Little Rascals		
Chester Fellowship	120.00	210.00	RTC Men's Trudgers		194.91
Chester Saturday Night Group		139.74	RTC Monday Night Mens		384.00
Carson Big Book Experience	40.00	40.00	RTC New Awakenings Group	231.88	647.38
Choices			RTC Sober as AF		
Cornerstone Group		75.00	Serenity on Sundays		500.00
Dayton Red Rooster			Sisters in Sobriety		
Dayton Sunday Morning			Sisters of Sobriety SOS		162.70
Decompression Chamber/online	301.26	509.74	Slide Mountain Candle light Gro	35.50	35.50
District 14			South Y Group		45.00
District 2		32.00	Southside Group	207.67	717.73
District 12		200.00	Step 1		
District 22	150.00	600.00	Steps to Freedom		
District 6			Sunnyside Group	550.00	1405.00
Driar's Nickle	160.00	360.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		
Driar's Support Hose			The Blue Room		146.40
Elko Exhale Group			The Next Chapter		100.00
Driars A Vision for You	100.00	100.00	The Rock Group	193.50	406.00
End of the Road Group			The Shop		
Eye Opener On-line	9.34	9.34	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Eye Opener	493.00	1053.11	Truckee Fellowship		
Fallon Language of the Heart			Truckee River Men's Stag		500.00
Fallon Saturday Grapevine			Verdi A Dedign for Living		250.00
Fallon Silver Lining			Verdi Meditation		
Fallon The Week That Was		50.00	Virginia City Plug in the Jug		
Fernley Groups		240.00	Warriors in Recovery		
Fireside Men's Stag	100.90	100.90	Wednesday Beginners are Winners		133.14
First Responders			Westwood A.A.		33.00
Galena Friday Night			Whole in the Ground		417.13
Galena Friday Night			Whole in the Soul		
Greenville Group		50.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		60.00
Ground Zero	174.94	384.14	Women's Down and Dirty		
Grupo Accion	10.00	40.00	Women's New Beginnings	600.00	699.00
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza			Women's New Harmony	300.00	300.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz	30.00	50.50	Young at Heart		200.40
Grupo Latino					
Grupo Nueva Vida	15.00	25.00			
Grupo Nueva Esperanza		36.00			
Genoa Roadside Group		96.00			
Grupo Solo Por Hoy		60.00			
Grupo Una Vision en El Lago		5.00			
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio		200.00			
Inclined to be Sober		97.18			
Jamesville God Grant Me					
			Total	7,504.05	26,134.94



One Morning on the Beach

By: Roxane R. | Valley Center, California

After spilling all her fears, she took her sponsor's suggestion and let a little sunlight in.

I've had the honor of hearing a number of Fifth Steps over the years. No two Fifth Steps are ever alike. So, if the idea of spending three to four hours with your sponsee is not high on your list of things to do on a Saturday afternoon, it can be tempered with the notion that you're probably going to hear something you never expected, or be part of someone's spiritual awakening. Given that, I actually look forward to this part of a woman's journey in sobriety.

Not long ago a married mother of two called me to set up a time to do her Fifth Step. This particular gal has been sober for more than five years. Early on she did an "emergency Fifth Step" so she could go on a planned vacation with her mom without getting drunk. But now, four years later, she was on the other end of the phone full of fretfulness and anxiety. She had tried everything to bring herself back in line with the principles of AA, so she called me to propose that perhaps a Fifth Step was in order. I was ecstatic but stayed "cool" and agreed to meet her later that week.

When the appointed day arrived we drove to the beach. Without formalities, she began by asking, "Well, do I just read it to you?" I said, "Why don't we pray first?" And so we did. She soon began to lay out her sad and sordid story, as each of us has done in turn. I was listening intently and encouraging her along the way. She stopped a few times to inform me that this next part was "really bad." I assured her that as bad as it was, there was no need for introductions to the "really bad stuff."

Through the course of her Fifth Step she told me of the shroud of fears she felt she wore each day. She had fear that the remodeling of their home they had started four months ago would never end. She had constant fear of financial insecurity. She had fear about her health and the health of her children. These fears, I assured her, were normal and could be abated if she trusted in God. I sensed her smirk.

When she was done and several hours had passed, we prayed again. I began to outline what she might want to do next. The Big Book tells us we should seek a place to be quiet for an hour so we can "carefully review" what we've done. I suggested she find a few moments to pray, thanking God and letting him in on her quest for peace. She admitted to me that she didn't feel like she had a real connection to God. "You know, like that line to God, I don't have that," she said. I was quiet, waiting for her to elaborate. "I try, really I do, but I don't feel anything. It's like he's not there."

I gently answered her with another suggestion: "Why don't you go ahead and pray anyway? It can't hurt, and sometimes, after these individual spiritual Steps we take, God shows himself. Or even better, you might just be more open to hearing him now that you have shed so much of what was

blocking you from the 'sunlight of the spirit'." She nodded. Just to get her started, we prayed again. I asked God to help her hear him.

Coincidentally, my sponsee was going to be taking me to the airport to catch a flight the next morning. I was headed to PRAASA in Boise, Idaho. So I had the advantage of seeing her a short 14 hours later. When I arrived at her house I saw that her husband was on the roof, hammering away. The first thing I asked her was, "Well, did you pray?" And she answered, "I haven't stopped. It's like I'm compelled. It's been so weird. And—get this—I got a letter in the mail today, well, actually yesterday, but I didn't pick it up until today. It was from the breeder of our dog we had to put down. She sent us the \$900 we paid for the lab. A \$900 check. Seriously, I never expected that." I just listened as she continued, "And Jack is working on the house today. He says he should be able to finish enclosing the breezeway soon. And on top of all this—the weather is warming up so we won't freeze like we've been freezing. I like this prayer thing."

I smiled. So she had found her connection ... at least for the moment. The best part of taking the Steps is improving our conscious contact with our Higher Power.

*Reprinted with permission AA
Grapevine May 2015*

Tradition 5

Hats off to Tradition 5

By: Morgan J. | Annapolis, Md.

He finally put down the bottle and got to a meeting. But what was everyone talking about? And what did it have to do with drinking?

My first AA meeting was on a Monday in August. That was the day I first reached out for help. I called the local number for AA after people encouraged me to check it out. After a few brutal weeks of not being able to explain to anyone what was happening to me, I made the call, using that "500-pound phone."

A very nice-sounding voice answered my call and I was told about a meeting that night at a church in town. It started at 8:30. The voice asked whether I could not drink until then and I said yes.

I arrived promptly at 8:30 and went into the meeting room. The chairs were all taken so I had to lean against the wall, propping myself up with my crutches since my legs weren't

working that well. No one offered me a chair or even acknowledged my presence and I stayed there for the duration of the meeting. I don't know why I stayed. I guess I thought it would be rude to leave.

The lady who led the meeting talked about hats. She had this thing about buying hats, she said. She had hats packed in her car and all over her house. She didn't wear a hat all that often, but she had to have them.

I didn't wear a hat. I didn't like hats, so I didn't understand why they were talking about hats. I thought it was going to be about AA or at least that's what I was told they would be talking about.

I left that meeting and decided AA wasn't for me. They certainly didn't talk about anything that I could identify with and I certainly didn't hear about how to deal with my drinking. I certainly wasn't welcomed.

That was on a Monday. I can't tell you what happened on Tuesday or Wednesday, but on Thursday I decided I had to do something. I was losing my mind. Booze had stopped working. I came to the realization that I was dying just like my father had, just like his sister had and just like my other relatives had. I didn't want to go through that horrible final period of life like they had. I had tried everything—even AA, and nothing helped.

I decided that I should just end it all to stop the screaming in my head. I wanted to drive my car into a corner of a bridge that was shaped like a catcher's mitt just outside of town. I thought it would be a perfect spot to drive my car into. I tried seven times that Thursday morning, and each time, as I was about to aim my car into that corner, I was cut off by another car. I didn't want to hurt other people by ramming another car, so I crossed the bridge and made a U-turn on the other side. I came back across the bridge, exited and crossed over the highway. I came down the on-ramp and tried for that corner, again and again. After those seven attempts, I felt like a complete failure. I couldn't even kill myself.

For reasons I can't explain, I went back to that same AA meeting the following Monday. I went a little earlier because I wanted to find a chair before they were all taken. This time I was met at the door by someone I knew. My friend took me inside and sat me down and then got me a half a cup of coffee because he could see that my hands were shaking, and he didn't want me to spill coffee on myself.

My friend then proceeded to tell me about AA, what it was and what it wasn't. He told me that I had a million friends that I hadn't met yet and that I never had to feel the way I was feeling ever again. He also told me that I never had to drink again. After the meeting was over, he said something very important. He said that there was another meeting the next day. Would I like to go? Yes, I said.

We met at that meeting and when it was over, he said to me that there was another meeting the next day and asked if I would like to go. Yes, I said.

The pattern for my recovery was established in those first few days and it has continued ever since. I've had ups and downs like everyone else has, as promised, but I've never had to drink another drink and I've never felt the same way I felt back then. Life has since become something that I really look forward to every day.

It's been almost 40 years since that awful Thursday morning. I no longer think about driving my car into that bridge. Maybe if I had made one more crossing of that bridge or if I hadn't been met by someone who welcomed me into AA, my life's outcome would have been different.

I sometimes wonder if we haven't lost other suffering alcoholics because we forgot to stick to our message and told stories at our meetings that didn't focus on our recovery from alcoholism. Our message of recovery is important. It can save a life. Sharing about hats that day almost cost me mine.



RULE
62



Maybe I'll get
some food at
that campfire.



What's the worst thing
that could happen?



10,000 Years Later

Me when
I'm drunk:
**DRINKS
FOR
EVERONE!**
Me when
I'm sober: \$5
for
shipping? I
think not!

Did you hear about the new
reality show that has
alcoholics surviving in the
wilderness?
It is called
"Naked and Afraid of what
People think about Me"

Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd break
into a distillery.

Daffy turns to Elmer and says, "Is
this whiskey?"

"Yeth," says Elmer. "But not as
whiskey as wobbling a bank!"



Mom: "Why don't you talk to Ethan anymore?
You used to be best friends?"
Son: "Well, would you be friends with
someone who was stupid, took drugs, and was
drunk all the time?"
Mom: "No, never!"
Son: "Well neither would he!"

A circus performer is driving home after a long day of training, when he is pulled over
by a police officer for a broken light.

The officer looks in the car and sees a collection of knives in the backseat.

"Sir," he says, "Why do you have all those knives?"

"They're for my juggling act," the circus performer replies.

"I don't believe you," says the cop. "Prove it." So the performer gets out of his car and
begins juggling the knives flawlessly.

Just at that moment, a car with two guys in it drives by. "Wow," says one to the other.
"I'm glad I quit drinking. These new sobriety tests are hard."



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