

# NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



June 13, 2026  
Kate  
Host group-  
Cornerstone  
Group

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

## JUNE 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:** nnigracer@gmail.com

## THE BRACER



## NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

### Interview with an Alcoholic

I'm Mary D. I'm an alcoholic. I got sober February 21st, 1987.

***Briefly, describe your drinking.***

I don't even think I went through a fun phase. I went straight to blackout. The first time I blacked out was the first time I got drunk. Maria's parents were out of town and she had a party. I got drunk on sweet vermouth and yeah, gross stuff, but I didn't know any better. I just got my teeth out of braces, and I got in a fight. Somebody knocked my teeth crooked. The next morning, I had a babysitting job, and I called in sick, and I was afraid to smile in front of my parents for weeks because of the crooked teeth. So that was a pattern for the rest of my drinking. I called in sick to recuperate for a little while so I could drink some more.

***What was the catalyst that brought you into A.A.?***

This sobriety date of February 21st 1987 is my third sobriety date. I got sober in 1985. I got sober again in 1986 and then this time it worked. But the first time I got sober, my parents were here, helping my first husband and I paint our new home. We were living in Gardnerville and we went to Sharkie's for a meal. There was a great band playing, and I got stupid drunk. I was dancing with everybody else in the room, but my own husband. I embarrassed my parents. The last incident was my husband's sister was visiting from Germany and I didn't know what to do with my sister-in-law or with her son, my nephew. My husband was working all the time and when he wasn't working he was drinking at the bar, so he was never home. I'm stuck with this woman that doesn't speak any English.

Continued of page 7

AA's

## Recovery

### Step : Six

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

Three

## Unity

### Tradition Six:

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

Legacies

## Service

### Concept Six

A.A. Functions Democratically in Principle While also Following a Corporate Model in Its Business Operations

## Concept VI – A.A. Functions Democratically in Principle While also Following a Corporate Model in Its Business Operations

The first five Concepts provide the foundation for Alcoholics Anonymous to operate democratically as a fellowship. Then , on Concept VI, Bill adds discussion of how A.A. at the level of its world services is also a very large business. He introduces the “corporate model” as the basis for A.A. business operations. A.A. is both a fellowship and a corporation ? How complicated is that? It’s beginning to sound like Bill had never heard of KISS. I now also needed to figure out why A.A. has and needs two operational sides, working closely together – both the General Service Conference and the General Service Board. Then I was told to read on through Concepts 6, 7, and 8 to really understand. Bill elaborates on what he means by the “ corporate model”, saying that “ Our Trustees must function almost exactly like the directors of any large business corporation. They must have ample authority to effectively manage and conduct A.A.’s business.” Aha! I am beginning to understand . A simple way to think of this is that the A.A. General Service Conference is critical to our working harmoniously together as a fellowship, while the General Service board , the Trustees, assures that we follow sound business practices, although these purposes do overlap.

Bill says that our Trustees need to be given a wide latitude of judgment and action. They need this because we A.A.’s are holding them mainly responsible for all service activities. The Trustees have the legal and practical responsibility for the operation of A.A. World Services, Inc. which embraces A.A. publishing as well as the General Service Office, and of the A.A. Grapevine , Inc. These entities have a combined cash flow of many millions of dollars annually. The trustees are also responsible for carrying the A.A. message to counties around the world. They are A.A.’s “bankers”, overseeing the financial operations and investing A.A.’s substantial Reserve Fund. They are busy people who hold a great deal of responsibility for the effectiveness of A.A. workings.

Who are these Trustees to whom we give such authority ? They fall into two categories: Class A and Class B. Class A Trustees are persons who are not and have not been afflicted by the disease of alcoholism and who express a profound faith in the program upon which A.A. was founded. They are persons who have friend of A.A. , including members of professions such as medicine, law, the clergy, finance, or any other field that may have occasion to work with alcoholics , and whose personal and/or professional expertise and dedication can be invaluable to our Fellowship. Class B Trustees are sober A.A. members who have been nominated throughout General Service committees and usually are members who have been deeply involved in A.A. service.

All Trustees nominations, Class A and Class B , are approved by the General Service Conference. Trustees serve a limits term. All volunteers with no monetary payment. Each serves out of a ‘labor of love’ for Alcoholics Anonymous.

*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



**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**

**September 12, 2026**  
**Chad L. Tacoma, WA.**  
**Host Group Beginners are Winners**

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.

**NNIG**

**FOUNDER'S DAY**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2026**

starts at 11am

Face Painting, VOLLEYBALL, HORSESHOES, raffle, CORN HOLE

**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

**SERENITY IN THE SIERRAS XXXVII**  
JULY 16 – 19, 2026 Camp Richardson  
“Eagle’s Nest”

South Lake Tahoe, CA

Email: [serenityinthesierras@gmail.com](mailto:serenityinthesierras@gmail.com)



**No One Walks Alone**



Scan for Eventbrite Registration

## The Biggest Little Rainbow+ AA Campout!

A family-friendly weekend of pride, recovery, and community as we celebrate sobriety and connection under the stars.

**Campout Activities**  
S'mores • Resentment Bonfire • Speaker Meetings • Raffles • Floating Meeting • Campout Olympics • Meditation & Yoga • Geocaching

**Registration**  
Pre-Reg (No Vehicle): \$40  
Pre-Reg + Vehicle/Parking: \$55  
Day of Event (No Vehicle): \$50  
Day of Event + Vehicle/Parking: \$65

Saturday night potluck style with BBQ entrée and beverages provided.

**Potluck Based On Sobriety Month**  
January – March: Side Dish  
April – June: Salad or Fruit  
July – September: Dessert  
October – December: Appetizer or Snack

Includes camping Thursday – Sunday, Saturday night dinner, Sunday breakfast, and fellowship all weekend long.

**Day Use**  
Day Pass (No Vehicle): \$10  
Day Pass + Vehicle/Parking: \$15

Perfect for those joining us for fellowship and fun during the day.

Parking is limited - carpooling encouraged.

**Additional Information**  
Sponsor Tickets Available  
Volunteers Needed

Boca Rest Campground  
Truckee, CA  
**August 13-16**

SCAN TO Register Online

Follow Us On Facebook:  
[@TheBiggestLittleRainbow+AACampout 2026](https://www.facebook.com/TheBiggestLittleRainbow+AACampout2026)

# MEETINGS AND MORE

## Central office report from

Ronda H. June 2026

About 6 months back we received Daily Reflections that were defective. After some returning and reordering, we have about 400 copies that are unsellable. SOOO we will be giving the books away. If you or your group would like some copies of these books , please drop in the office for your copies. Just remember the books are unsellable, give away ONLY.

Volunteer Hours: 97 hrs.

Calls into Central Office: 106

- Calls for AA help - 4
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 2
- Meeting information - 29
- Retail / merchandise - 5
- Other 12-step programs - 1
- Events – 12
- New to AA/ Talked with - 3
- Business/Central office- 50
- **Visitors – 243 -Dogs- 5**



Texts –5 Phone calls on the text Phone- 0

*Ronda H.  
Central Office Manager*



**April 2026**  
Nancy M. 33 Years  
Ron T. 15 Years



**Birthdays for the month May of 2026**  
Louis S. 5 YEARS  
Donn T. 36 YEARS

Previous Birthdays

March  
Kent L. 44 YEARS  
Darrill S. 19 YEARS  
Kim D. 49 YEARS

February  
Jack W. 41 Years  
Tom C. 45 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 F. 41 Years

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

August  
Linda G. 35 Years  
Joanne P. 15 years  
Ann G. 21 years  
Sandra G. 30 years  
Paci M. 34 Years



*"We shall be with you in the spirit, and you will surly meet some of us as you trudge the road of Happy Destiny".  
Big Book p.184*





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



## BACK TO THE 40'S

**Another Back to the 40's Step Workshop starts on Friday, May 29, at 7 pm. Details:**

- ✓ Series of five 1-hour workshops (one each Friday evening) to work the Twelve Steps.
- ✓ Located at Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center, Bristlecone Room (across from the cafe). Stop at the reception desk for a Visitor's Tag.
- ✓ Bring a Big Book, a sponsor if possible (temp sponsors available for both genders), and a notepad and pencil.
- ✓ This is a workshop class, not a meeting. There is homework each week to work on the Steps. Please don't bring children.
- ✓ Meet on 5/29, 6/5, 6/12, 6/19, and 6/26

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.

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

## 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
- 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** 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.

"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)



## Sixth Step Prayer

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

### NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2026

Group	May	YTD	Group	May	YTD
4th Dimension- ON-LINE	55.20	106.08	Happy Hour Reno		666.50
A Way Home	626.05	1153.01	Kindred Spirits		220.00
Sparks Brown Baggers			Kingsbury Group		
Sparks Jaywalkers		753.97	Lone Pine Group		250.00
Sparks Open Heart Open Mind		346.50	McGill NV Freedom Group		
Sparks Sunshine Group		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	Minden Saturday Night Fever		569.10
Beginners are Winners On-Line Group		1154.00	Minden Stephanie Way Group		375.00
Bishop Circle in the Park		14.00	Minden/Gardnerville Group		565.33
Bishop High Sierra Group	159.23	159.23	Minden/Gardnerville Wednesday Night Live		77.80
Blairsden 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		635.60
Calliente AA			NNIG Business Meeting	81.00	380.35
Caring & Sharing in Stead		426.58	Old Time AA		50.00
Carson After Shifters		283.91	Our Common Welfare	57.00	343.00
Carson Alano Club			Our Group		165.00
Carson Only Way Home		260.00	Portola Group		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	297.12	553.33	RTC Almost Heaven	100.00	198.53
Carson Happy Hour			RTC Aloha Group		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		193.00	RTC Just for Today Women		121.95
Carson Sisters in Sobriety			RTC Little Rascals		
Chester Fellowship		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	RTC New Awakenings Group		647.38
Choices			RTC Sober as AF		
Cornerstone Group		75.00	Serenity on Sundays		500.00
Dayton Red Rooster			Sisters in Sobriety	133.85	133.85
Dayton Sunday Morning			Sisters of Sobriety SOS		162.70
Decompression Chamber/online	77.94	587.68	Slide Mountain Candle light Group		35.50
District 14			South Y Group	30.00	75.00
District 2	16.50	48.50	Southside Group		717.73
District 12		200.00	Step 1		
District 22	150.00	750.00	Sparks Sunshine	183.00	183.00
District 6			Sunnyside Group		1405.00
Driar's Nickle		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	The Rock Group		406.00
End of the Road Group			The Shop		
Eye Opener On-line		9.34	Truckee Dawn Patrol		
Eye Opener		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	Wednesday Beginners are Winn	303.23	436.37
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		384.14	Women's Down and Dirty		
Grupo Accion		40.00	Women's New Beginnings	80.00	779.00
Grupo Fe Y Esperanza			Women's New Harmony		300.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz	20.00	70.50	Young at Heart		200.40
Grupo Latino					
Grupo Nueva Vida	22.00	47.00			
Grupo Nueva Esperanza	22.00	58.00			
Genoa Roadside Group		96.00			
Grupo Solo Por Hoy	20.00	80.00			
Grupo Una Vision en El Lago		5.00			
Grupo Vivendo Sobrio	100.00	300.00			
Inclined to be Sober		97.18			
Jamesville God Grant Me					
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2,534.12</b>	<b>28,669.06</b>

I have no memory of this but I got so violently drunk, I was sitting in the middle of the living room, completely naked, ripping my hair out and screaming at my sister-in-law. She went and woke my sister up was able to convey to her that her sister, me, was losing her mind in the living room. The next morning, my sister said to me, "I can't come visit you anymore because you just get too out of control drunk". I thought s\*\*\*\* y. I called a friend in a blackout. I knew that she had gotten sober and I called her. I said, "I want to go to that spin dry place that you went to." she came and picked me up and brought me into Reno Professional Counseling Center, and I stayed a month. When I left I was absolutely terrified to go home, because my husband was my favorite drinking buddy, my favorite enabler, and it was tough. It was hard for me being sober, seeing him drunk. I think it was after the third time I got sober, I knew that I couldn't continue to live with him. It was really hard to leave him because he was the first person I'd ever really fallen in love with or as much as an alky heart would allow.

***Tell me about coming into A.A.***

By the time I came back February 21st, 1987, I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that I could not stay sober by myself. That you guys in Alcoholics Anonymous had the answer, you had the solutions. I wasn't aware of any other program on the planet that would help me stay sober. But what I didn't know was how to stay stopped. I was really busy letting you know that I was okay, and it was a big fat lie. They said, "fake it until you make it." I was really good at faking it, but I didn't make it. It wasn't until this third time that it was like do-or-die, Mary do-or-die, you need to stay into A.A., you need to get a sponsor you need to read the big book, you need to go to meetings and do everything that is suggested. That maybe you'll have a chance to stay sober so I was doing 90 meetings and 90 days this third time around.

***When did it switch for you?***

It took being shot in the head. I was 89 days sober, third time around, still hating everybody, and I was driving home from work. It was May 22nd 1987, so that was my 89th day, and I was going to meetings every single day and this car pulled in behind me on tramway, and I came over the mountain and they followed me. Down

the mountain, I didn't think anything of it, and it wasn't until we got on the flatland that they started to accelerate right before this bridge. They pulled up beside me and discharged a shotgun into my car. I didn't know what happened at the time. I didn't know they shot me until the blood was gushing all down my jacket and I was freezing to death, because both windows blew out the driver's side and the passenger side, and that's when I realized Holy c\*\*\* I've been shot in the head! I decided to follow this car and get the license number, by God because I wanted the cops to get these guys, whoever they were. I knew I was going into Shock, and I started shaking really, really bad and I thought no Mary, you better wake up one of these ranchers here because you're in trouble. You're bleeding bad. Then I thought, no just go home. I woke my husband up, and by this time I'm just covered in blood. He's freaked out, we called the police, they didn't have a medical facility in Gardnerville at the time, the police called and it was awful. I didn't go to a meeting that day, but I went to a meeting on day 91 and was crying, and I got my head all bandaged up and everything and I said, I was just desperately trying to make 90 and 90, but somebody shot me!

I got strange after that, God had saved my life one more time for something really important. Maybe I'm supposed to run the world, just insane stuff. I was talking to my sister, I said, I don't know why God spared my life one more time. She said, "Maybe God was trying to get your attention." Just from that brief little statement, I thought, maybe I'm not that important. Maybe I am supposed to just be one among many. That turned me around completely. I became so grateful that my life had been spared one more time. A quarter of an inch and my head would have been blown all over the car. How fragile life is? How fragile my sobriety was, how important it was for me to follow the rules and just become one among many. That turned me round.

***What is your favorite line of the big book?***

My favorite line out of the big book is from We Agnostics, page 55, "For deep down in every man woman and child is the fundamental idea of God. "I had a tough time with the God stuff even after being shot in the head. I knew my life had been

spared, but then there was this third step. Turn your will and your life over to that power greater than yourself. When I came into Alcoholics Anonymous, the third step was a tough one for me, a tough one. My first sponsor recommended that I read the variety of religious experiences by William James. When I had trouble sleeping, I'd read it! Came to Believe was another book, she recommended. That I could relate to a little bit better. Today there is no doubt in my mind that there is a power greater than myself.

***Are there any changes that you've seen since you came in in the 80s?***

I think AA has become more welcoming to all kinds of different side groups.

***What is the most powerful thing that you can say to a newcomer?***

I honestly can't remember what people said to me when I got sober except for one thing where they said, "You don't ever have to feel this way again. If you stick around with us and do as we do, Then you'll have a chance at staying sober."

***Do you have any final word?***

Alcoholics Anonymous has saved my life, and it has given me a life beyond my wildest dreams. I'm more than content, I'm happy, I'm really, comfortable.

Honest-to-God the last time I thought seriously about drinking was when I was shot, because I remember thinking, "If sobriety is going to be this much fun. I might as well get drunk!" I was mess. So I am grateful, grateful to Alcoholics Anonymous for pulling me out of that. "AA hasn't exactly opened up the pearly gates of Heaven for me but it has allowed me to crawl out of the hell I was in."

*Interview took place on May 26, 2026*

## **Tradition 6**

Staying Out of the Swamp

By: Anonymous | Omaha, Nebraska

Time and experience proved that a policy of "no endorsements" would keep AA's doors open to the greatest number of prospective members. There are "related facilities" that provide vital services to alcoholics--hospital wards, treatment facilities, drunk tanks, and clubs--but Tradition Six recommends that they should operate without

endorsement, affiliation, or financial support from AA groups.

Individual AA members may privately endorse related facilities or outside enterprises, but no group of Alcoholics Anonymous ought to lend the AA name to any of these. Why? Because nothing should be allowed to divert us from our primary purpose of carrying a message of hope to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Think about it. If AA were to endorse a treatment center, political party, or football team, wouldn't fans of the other team get mad? Has your home group ever fought about money at its business meeting? Have you known newcomers who were nervous about attending AA meetings in church basements? Tradition Six helps keep us from getting bogged down in these types of conflicts. It recommends no endorsements. It warns us not to let money squabbles undermine our primary purpose, and enables us to assure newcomers about the meeting places of Alcoholics Anonymous. AA groups are in no way affiliated with the creed, politics, sect, or denomination of their landlords.

It was personal experience that helped me grasp the significance of this Tradition. When I met a rich woman who couldn't stay away from the first drink, I understood that sobriety is more than money. (I learned more about this when I was active and happy in the Fellowship while unemployed and in debt.) When the church in which my home group met burned to the ground, but the group carried its message as usual, I learned that an AA group is more than property. As for prestige, I have learned that it has a lot to do with ego, while ours is an ego-deflating program. As long as I don't get too important to serve, I'll probably be fine.

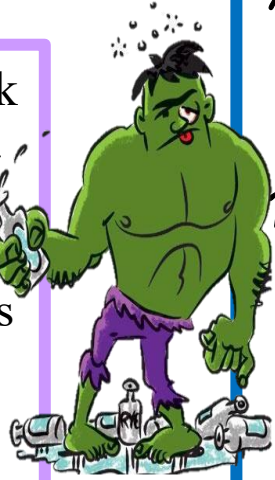
Money, property, and prestige (like defects of character) are simply part of life, but they become liabilities when they eclipse my primary purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

At our Thirty-Fifth Anniversary International Convention, the Declaration of Unity put it this way: "This we owe to AA's future: to place our common welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on AA Unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come."



## RULE 62

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



Doctor: "Sir, I'm afraid you're going to have to stop drinking."

Patient: "Why, doctor?"

Doctor: "Because, I'm trying to examine you!"

Two guys were waiting for a bus. Both of them had been "over-served."

When the bus finally pulled up, the first drunk asked the driver, "Will this bus take me to Elm Street?"

"Nope," said the driver.

The second drunk then stepped up and asked, "What about me?"

Well-dressed lady at a meeting (somewhat smugly): "I never drank in bars. I always drank at home."

Biker guy with tattoos and long hair: "Wow, lady, I never got that bad!"

**Q:** How many members of Alcoholics Anonymous does it take to change a light bulb?

**A:** None. Lighting is an outside issue.



AA is not easy. It takes a lot of work. And it can be very confusing...

We have to surrender to win. We have to give it away in order to keep it. They tell us to hang on, but let go! It's an anonymous program, but we state our name before we share. We shouldn't judge others, but stick with the winners. Get a sponsor and find a Higher Power, but no new relationships in your first year! We stop drinking because we have to change or die, but then they tell us "no major changes" in our first year. Half measures avail us nothing, but we'll be amazed before we're halfway through.

And then we have the numbers...

The 12 & 12... 90 in 90... the first three Steps... the five things... do a Fourth or drink a fifth... one day at a time... the first 164... the Four Horsemen... the seven deadly sins... and 449 has now become 417!

And you know when this all makes sense?

After a few 24s!



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