

NNIG MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER



January 12th— 7:00 pm
Group: Support Hose
Rachael G., Santa Rosa, CA

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

December, 2018

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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 decision be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that no Intergroup Association action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Intergroup Association may act for the service of AA Groups in the Northern Nevada area and parts of Northern California, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Intergroup Association itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

(The above is adapted and modified from "The AA Service Manual", and AA Co-Founder Bill W's. Twelve Concepts for World Service; Concept XII, as adopted by the General Service Conference on April 26, 1962. This adaptation of copyrighted AA material has been approved by the General Service Board)

CENTRAL OFFICE

436 S. Rock Blvd.,
Sparks, NV 89431
Monday thru Friday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

24 Hour Answering Service:

(775) 355-1151 Fax: (775) 355-1560

EMAIL: officemanager@nnig.org

Web Site/Meeting Schedule: nnig.org

The Bracer: nnigbracer@gmail.com



The Bracer

NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP

There Really Are No Coincidences

Stuck with his busted motorcycle by the side of the road, he says a prayer—and the “coincidences” come fast and furious

So it was 72 degrees today and I decide I am going to take advantage of the summertime-in-February weather here in Asheville and go for a long ride on my motorcycle. As I pass thru Lake Lure, I decide to pull over on the side of the road and take some pictures of the mountains. When I go to leave, I turn the ignition on the bike, hit the start button, but nothing happens. I try again and again, but no luck doing—gauges, lights, everything. No juice!

Luckily I have a couple wrenches and a screwdriver on the bike, so I take the dash off and clean the connections and reconnect them. Still nothing. I take the seat off to look at the battery connections, everything looks good. I fiddle with some of the wires to see if by chance any may be loose, as I had a similar problem before with a smashed wire under the seat.

Still no juice and I am at a loss, since I am not much of a mechanic. So I do what I always do when I am frustrated and fresh out of ideas. I say a quick prayer and ask for help with it. Sure enough, my phone rings and I see it is my friend Mark R.. It just so happens Mark knows motorcycles very well; he even wired up a power outlet on my bike back in 2010 so I could listen to my music when I went to San Antonio for the convention.

I tell him what has happened and he suggests that I check the fuse box to see if a wire had been smashed. I take the side covers and saddlebags off so I can check the fuses, but they are all good. I had tried to take the battery terminal bolts off, but none of the wrenches I had would fit. So here I am sitting on the side of the road dash off seat off, side covers and saddle bags off and this car pulls up and the guy inside asks if I need some help.

My first instinct is to say no, I got this, but I think twice about it real quick and start talking with him. Guy tells me he used to ride a lot. I tell him everything and he says he has a few tools in his car. So we both go thru checking everything a 3rd time. He suggests we check the end of the smashed wire that is connected to the battery terminal. I tell him I had tried that earlier, but didn't have the right size wrench. He goes to his car and gets a 10mm wrench—and as soon as I start to loosen the bolt, the juice comes on. Turns out that smashed wire was to the power outlet Mark installed back in 2010 and was shorting out the bike because I had rewired it wrong and the seat had smashed the wire.

The bike is fine after this. I thank the guy and he gives me a bottle of water out of his car. We talk for a short while and he says he is from Boston via Florida and has just moved to Lake Lure. I thank him again, and as he is backing out he looks over and see's my bike tag that says Rule 62 and asks me about it. Turns out we had a mutual friend named Bill W. who passed away back in the 70's. We talk some more about our friend Bill and how he has helped us, and as he is driving away, the guy hollers out the window to me, there are no coincidences.

You know, he could just be right about that ...

Mike B., Prescott, AZ

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NNIG EVENTS

EVENTS HOSTED BY NORTHERN NEVADA INTERGROUP TO SUPPORT CENTRAL OFFICE

NNIG Monthly Speaker Meetings
Silver Legacy – 407 North Virginia Street, Reno 89501



Monthly Speaker Meeting
Doors open at 6:30 PM
Speaker at 7:00 PM



September 8, 2018
Host Group — Keep It Simple, Driars 8:30pm Friday
Speaker — Tom H. (Reno, NV)
Location — Silver Baron C, D & E

October 12-14, 2018
Canceled due to Sierra Nevada Fall Roundup
Nugget Resort & Casino – 8:00pm Speaker Friday & Saturday

November 3, 2018
Canceled due to Gratitude Dinner
Eldorado Hotel Casino – 7:30pm Speaker

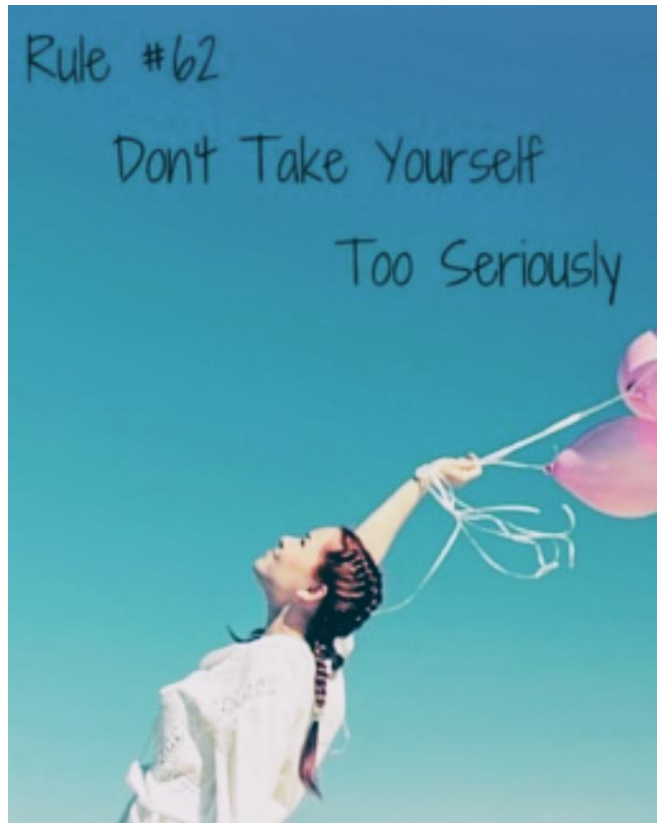
December 8, 2018
Host Group — A Way Home, Good Shepherd Church 5:30pm Friday
Speaker — Wesley I. (Calabasas, CA)
Location — Silver Baron 1-6

January 12, 2019
Host Group — Support Hose, Driars 4pm Sunday
Speaker — Rachael G. (Santa Rosa, CA)
Location — Silver Baron 1-6

February 9, 2019
Host Group — Beginners Are Winners, Triangle 6:45am
Speaker — TBD
Location — Silver Baron 1-6

March 9, 2019
Host Group — Sisters of Sobriety, Buddhist Church 6pm Tuesday
Speaker — Ilene W. (Los Angeles, CA)
Location — Silver Baron 1-6

NNIG Speaker Chair: Brian A.
Speaker Co-Chair: Open
Need more info call: Central Office – (775) 355-1151
Join us for dinner at Millie's 24 inside the Eldorado @ 5 pm with the speaker



MORE AREA EVENTS

Sparks Alano Club
Hosting a New Years Event!

Sobriety Countdown with a speaker meeting followed by a pajama dance party.

Monday, December 31st
8pm-1am

1640 Prater Way, Sparks, NV 89431

\$10 Suggested Donation

Balloon drop at midnight!

DJ

Potluck

Photo Booth

Appetizers – A-F
Sides – M-R

Main Dish – G-L
Desserts – S-Z

All fellowships welcomed

Monday
Dec. 31, 2018
New Year's Eve
Alcathon!



New Year's Eve Back-to-Back Meeting Event

Newcomers, long timers, and everyone in between, please drop by for a meeting, food, fun & fellowship as we see in the new year.

Hourly 50-minute meeting times & secretaries:

7:00 p.m. <u>Jyoti N.</u>	10:00 p.m. <u>Ryan N.</u>
8:00 p.m. <u>Peggy H.</u>	11:00 p.m. <u>Jon B.</u>
9:00 p.m. <u>Dana W.</u>	12 midnight <u>Marilyn P.</u>

and 1 a.m. & longer for folks in need ...

For more info, contact aadistrict8dcm@gmail.com.

St. Timothy's Church
700 Hobson Street

between Elm & Keough streets, in Bishop, CA

Chili will be served. Potluck additions welcomed.

Possible lull-time activities: table games, the Big Book Game, music, speaker CDs, DVDs ...

Dear NNIG Fellowship,

Volunteer hours- 74.05 hours
Calls into Central Office:

- Calls for AA help - 8
- Calls for Alanon/Alateen - 1
- Meeting information- 78
- Retail / merchandise- 20
- Other 12 step programs- 2
- Events - 9
- Business/Central office-93
- Visitors - 252

The office had been a bit chilly this month warmed only by the volunteers and fellowship that came in, the heater was not working properly but on November 27th the Heater was replaced and it is working great. Please stop by, we always have coffee and candy. With a new website and the archives committee in the works the New Year has a lot to look forward to with many service opportunities. Hope everyone has safe and sober Holidays.

Ronda
Central Office Manager

The Birthday Club

November 2017

Leslie S. 21 Years
Cheryl Z. 23 Years
Mike Mc. 34 Years

October 2018

Sharon F. 34 Years

September 2017

Mike H. 23 years

August 2018

Kim D. 41 years
Tonía 17 years
Danny S. 16 years

July 2018

Paul M. 27 Years
Linda 26 Years
Sandra 23 years
Barbara M. 43 years
Joanne P. 6 years

June 2018

Kyle 36 Years

May 2018

Susanne T. 24 Years

Donn T 28 Years

April 2018

Ron T 7 Years

Jack W. 33 Years

March 2018

Kent L. 36 Years

January 2018

Joan H. 47 Years



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

Show your Support for your NNIG Central Office
and join the Birthday Club

A donation of only one dollar for every year of your Sobriety Birthday.
Envelopes available at Central Office,

Wednesday Night Beginners

6:30 PM Wednesday
St. John's Presbyterian Church
1070 Plumb Lane
Reno, NV

Boiled Owls Men's Big Book Study

Monday 6:30 pm
Alano Club
1640 Prater Way
Sparks, NV

Beginners are Winners

6:45 AM Daily
8:15 AM Saturday & Sunday
Triangle Club
635 S. Wells Ave.
Reno, NV

AA ANSWERING SERVICE NUMBERS

Reno, Sparks, Carson City and all of
Northern Nevada: (775) 355-1151
Las Vegas and all of Southern Nevada:
(702) 598-1888
Mammoth Lake: (760) 934-3434
North Lake Tahoe: (530) 546-1126
South Lake Tahoe: (530) 541-1243
Susanville, CA: (530) 257-2880

Full Blown, Half Grown

Saturday 8:00 PM
221 Chipmunk St. Unit 4
Kings Beach, CA

Sunday Night Gratitude

Sunday 7:30 PM
1276 Pit Road, Suite 4
Gardnerville, NV

N.N.I.G. STEERING COMMITTEE

Last Tuesday of each month, 5:30 PM
Central Office, 436 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks

N.N.I.G. BUSINESS MEETING

First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 PM
Alano Club, 1640 Prater Way, Sparks

N.N.I.G. MONTHLY SPEAKER MEETING

7:00 PM Silver Legacy - Silver Baron A

N.N.I.G. CPC/PI

Second Sunday of each month, 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Central Office 436 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks

N.N.I.G. H&I

Last Thursday of each month, 5:15 PM
Central Office 436 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

H&I, BRIDGING THE GAP

LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT
5:15 PM, CENTRAL OFFICE

CPC/PI 2ND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH,
2:00 PM. CENTRAL OFFICE

YPAA MEETINGS

TITYPAA, 1ST & 3RD SUNDAY 6:30
PM, 8425 DOLLY VARDEN AVE, KINGS
BEACH, CA

RENVYPAA 2ND&4TH SUNDAY 4:00
PM, 635 WELLS AVE., UPSTAIRS

District Meetings

DISTRICT-2 Second Thursday of each month, 6:30 PM-Reno
Central Office, 436 S. Rock Blvd. Reno

DISTRICT 4 First Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM-Reno
Triangle Club, 635 S. Wells Avenue Reno

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

DISTRICT 10A Third Sunday of every other month, 1:30 PM
680 River St. Elko, NV

DISTRICT 10B Last Sunday Odd Numbered Months @
10:00AM Rotating Group Locations –
Call (775)403-0869

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 Mon 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
Sparks Family Christian Church 510 Greenbrae
Blvd 6:00PM-7:00PM

DISTRICT 18 DARK DISTRICT

DISTRICT 20 First Saturday of every month 1:30 PM- 50
South Weatherlow, Susanville

DISTRICT 22 Last Saturday of each Month at 5:00 PM 433
Pyramid Way

*Volunteers are needed to take meetings into hospitals, institutions
and treatment centers. Please contact Central Office or Treatment
Chair Rob L. for more information.*

AREA CLUBS

Reno / Sparks Clubs

Alano Club Sparks, 1640 Prater Way (775) 359-2727
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

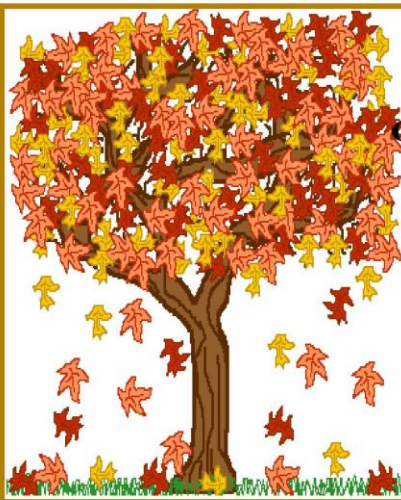
Alano Club Carson City, 1800 HWY 50 East (775) 882-0443
Bishop Alano Club (760) 873-6700
Elko Alano Club (775) 738-4747
Las Vegas Triangle Club (702) 435-0597
South Lake Tahoe (530) 541-1243

AA Service in Jails 2019

*Men and women are needed to
take meetings into Parr Blvd
Detention Center. Currently there are
two women's meetings per month
and one men's meeting per week. If
you would like to be of service, please
come fill out an application, available
at Central Office or from your
Intergroup Rep. Volunteers must
attend mandatory orientation
February 23, 2019. For more info,
contact Corrections Committee.*

Ashley B. abbvcpg15@gmail.com

Charlotte C. ccoxboog111@gmail.com



2018 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE CENTRAL OFFICE

Thursday November 22,
2018 Thanksgiving –
Closed

Friday November 23,
2018 Family Day – Closed

Tuesday December 25,
2018 Christmas Day –
Closed

Monday December 31,
2018 Inventory – Closed
Tuesday January 1, 2019 –
New Year's Day – Closed

Submit this form or call Central Office to get on the list.

12 STEP Volunteer Application Form

Name: _____

Date: _____

Sobriety Date: _____

Gender: Male ___ Female ___

Phone # _____

Location/City: _____

Available: _____ Days: _____

Times: _____

Letter from Chiang Mai

In sobriety, he got a new inner life and followed his dreams across the globe

I admitted that I had a drinking problem long before I got sober. But I never accepted it and so, I stayed lost for years before finally being Twelve-Stepped. From the outside, my life looked great, so I thought. I had a great paying job, a boat, a house and money in the bank. On the inside, I was depressed, lonely, suicidal and it looked like it was only going to get worse, I was terminally unique.

I got sober in San Francisco and my sponsor, Detroit Dave, told me there were three things I must do if he was to sponsor me. I was to tell him the truth, take a service commitment, and always have my hand out to the newcomer. The magic recipe—but yet it seemed next to impossible. I had to accept that I had a gift for "bending" the truth to suit my case. I also didn't like to work too hard and I sure didn't like to have my hand out to anyone. It took some work to overcome these challenges at first, each decision had to be questioned. Was I selfish, self-centered, dishonest, fearful, and more? Oh yeah, but I learned to overcome these shortcomings one day at a time. My life depended on it then like it depends on it now.

The Fourth and Fifth Steps required I let someone into my dark secrets and made me feel vulnerable. The personal self-appraisal seemed at first glance hard, nearly impossible. What was I afraid of? Rejection? Ridicule? Judgment? Did these negative emotions serve me? Not in the least bit! The things I had found personally unacceptable had little strength in the light of day to give me a reason to drink. I was not rocketed into the fourth dimension after doing the Fifth Step but I was relieved to know that someone else was willing to help me.

On the other side of the coin, how do I receive someone's Fifth Step? Do I practice acceptance and non-judgment when hearing someone drop that rock? I cannot say that someone is staying sober the wrong way. I just can give someone my personal experience. Do I accept how they do this program without expectation? My serenity depends on my ability to let go of the outcome and turn it over to my Higher Power.

When I saw others not doing the Steps, not doing service work, my reaction was first

anger, confusion, and resentment. I asked Whitney as I was chairing a meeting one time, "Why do five percent of the people do ninety percent of the work in AA?" She smiled and turned to me and asked, "Well are you sober?" "Yes", I replied. "Well don't worry about what their doing, just keep doing what your doing!" she said with a wink and started sharing her story. I have to accept others as they are. Love and tolerance of others is our code.

Acceptance means many things to many people. For me it means that there are some things I simply have no power over. It means that I have to let go of things I cannot change. One thing I learned was that it did not mean that I have to agree with something. I also do not have to be walked on. I can learn new tools and can act in a rational manner and not react as a victim to life. How many times have I thought, "If I just had a big enough hammer I could get the square block through that round hole?"

The real miracle came after doing the Ninth Step. The Promises started manifesting and the world became a bigger place. I moved out of the Bay Area and learned a new language. I started sponsoring others in English as well as Thai. With mixed results, I had to accept that I could not give someone the gift of desperation. If someone wanted to drink there was not a damn thing I could do to stop him. It is completely beyond my power.

A long timer, Dale R., at Chiang Mai International Fellowship says in a gruff voice, "AA is a program of self-acceptance, there are just simply parts of my nature I can't change." This has been the case for me, my grosser handicaps are gone, I hope, although I still struggle with emotions but I have not had to drink over them in coming up on six years! I worked the Steps and now they work through me!

Through the Eleventh Step more has been revealed and I now have tools to deal with things that seemed insurmountable. I discovered that by participating in meetings, I heard my higher power through the words of others. I learned a deeper level of tolerance and I found that the small stuff passes and prepares me for accepting the true hard times without drinking. I have learned I am a survivor, I have learned that the smallest acts of fellowship have profound effects on others no matter what I think. I pay attention to my inner voice, talk with my sponsor and learn to trust that things will be fine. I accept that this is a program of action gladly as the rewards are indescribable and long lasting.

NNIG FINANCIAL REPORT

NNIG/Central Office Group Contributions 2018

Group	November	YTD	Group	November	YTD
3rd Tradition Secular Group	50.00	100.00	Happy Hour Reno		800.00
A Way Home		143.90	Incline to be Sober		0.00
Alano Afternoon Serenity		0.00	Janesville Moment to Moment		0.00
Alano Brown Baggers		400.00	Kings Beach AA Golden Group		731.00
Alano Dawn Patrol	150.00	250.00	Knuckleheads		0.00
Alano Jaywalkers		0.00	Ladies of the Evening		73.44
Alano Keep it Simple		0.00	Ladies of the Lake		143.21
Alano Shake' m Up Group		0.00			
Alano Sunday Morning Speaker		204.00	Mammoth Lakes Group		50.00
Twilight Zone		273.50	McGill NV Freedom Group		25.00
Alano Sunshine Group		500.00	Minden Language of the Heart		80.00
Alano There is a Solution		0.00	Minden Saturday Night Fever		175.00
Alano Women in Recovery		43.41	Minden Stephanie Way Group		362.03
Amen Maintenance Meeting		310.00	Minden/Gardnerville Group		1045.00
Austin Group		82.50	Mt Rose Recovery Room	200.00	1533.00
Back to Basics Saturday Night	70.00	696.00	NNIG Business Meeting	25.00	323.61
Back Room Group	52.13	270.82			
Bare Bones		127.00	Our Common Welfare	40.00	100.00
Battle Mountain Fellowship	10.00	110.00	Out and Sober		30.00
Bishop Group		0.00	Page by Page		0.00
Blairsdan Greagle Group		0.00	Portola Group		620.00
Bridgeport High Sierra Group		0.00	Positive Acceptance Group		443.40
Buena Vista Group		0.00	Pyramid Way Discussion Group		20.00
Caring & Sharing in Stead		317.46	Quincy Fellowship		10.00
Carlin Crystal Light Group		0.00	RTC ABC Group		0.00
Carson AA Way of Life		200.00	RTC Afternoon Delight		150.00
Carson After Shifters	124.49	227.09	RTC Almost Heaven		650.00
Carson Back to Basics		0.00	RTC Aloha Group		500.00
Carson Big Book Babes		0.00	RTC Beginners are Winners		1050.00
Carson Big Book Experience		29.00	RTC How We Stay Stopped		80.00
Carson Brown Baggers		1006.00	RTC Just for Today Women	200.00	350.00
Carson Drunk Squad		199.00	RTC Little Rascals		150.00
Carson Early Birds	334.59	2303.86	RTC Big Book Study	100.00	100.00
Carson Happy Hour		50.00	RTC Men's Trudgers		210.00
Carson Jay-Walkers Men's		100.00	RTC Mid Day Group		100.00
Carson Men's NO BS Stag		81.50	RTC Mon Night Grapevine		0.00
Carson Sandbaggers	5.00	47.00	RTC Monday Night Men's		200.00
Carson Sunday Morning Fire Station		19.21	RTC New Awakenings Group		1029.68
Carson Sunday Night Step Study		250.00	RTC Not a Glum Lot		0.00
Carson Valley Gratitude		0.00	RTC Seniors in Sobriety		150.00
Carson Dr. Bob's Nightngales		48.50	RTC Sober N Sane		50.00
Chester Fellowship		73.84	RTC Women's Literature Study		0.00
Choices	50.00	150.00	RTC Women on Wednesday		0.00
Cornerstone Group		481.29	Serenity Sisters		133.05
Crystal Bay Nooners		0.00	Sierraville Sunday Night		0.00
Dayton Fellowship Hall		550.00	Silver Springs Groups	25.00	325.00
Dayton Friday Night Rule 62		0.00	Sisters in Sobriety		85.94
Dayton Sunday Morning		321.00	Slide Mountain Serenity		20.00
Disdrict 2	450.00	450.00			
District 6		0.00	South Reno on Sunday	275.00	800.00
District 12		500.00	South Shore Group		75.00
District 14	150.00	300.00	Southside Group	246.82	5147.48
District 22		0.00	Stagecoach Friends of Bill		85.00
Driar's 4th Dimension	150.00	150.00	Step 1		0.00
Driar's Keep It Simple		0.00	Sunday New Beginnings		0.00
Driar's Club Lunch Bunch		0.00	Sunnyside Big Book Study		0.00
Driar's Serenity Night Owls		0.00	Sunnyside Group		2055.00
Driar's Support Hose	61.00	61.00	Susanville Thursday Night		250.00
Driar's Positive Step		66.50	Susanville Wed Womens		0.00
End of the Road Group		0.00	Tahoe City Fellowship		0.00
Eye Operner	300.00	1495.00	The Rock Group		327.00
Fallon The Real Lunch Bunch		291.50	Truckee Dawn Patrol		0.00
Fernley Groups		400.00	Truckee Fellowship		200.00
Fallon Language of the Heart		250.00	Truckee River Men's Stag		1400.00
Fireside Group	200.00	1000.00	Verdi Bookies	35.00	187.00
Galena Friday Night		201.00	Virginia City Plug in the Jug		100.00
Gardnerville Roadside Group		0.00	Wed Night Beginners		202.60
Gardnerville Wed Night Live		23.00	Westwood AA		0.00
Greenville Group		40.00	Westwood Monday Night		0.00
Ground Zero		368.30	Whole in the Ground Sunnyside		450.00
Grupo Accion		81.00	Winnemucca Serenity Seekers		0.00
Grupo Fe Y Esoeranza		0.00	Winnemucca Three Legacies		0.00
Grupo La Nueva Esperanza		0.00	Women's 24 Hours A Day		100.00
Grupo La Nueva Luz	20.00	220.00	Women's New Beginnings		198.00
Grupo Nueva Vida	10.00	110.00	Women Down and Dirty		95.00
Grupo Latino		0.00	Women's New Harmony	60.00	195.00
RENVYPAA		300.00	Young at Heart		0.00
Grupo Solo Por Hoy		110.00			
			Total	3,394.03	40,148.62

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

Northern Nevada InterGroup
Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
November 2018

19:08 AM 12/06/18 Accrual Basis	Nov 18	Nov 17	Jan - Nov 18
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4060 - Income - General			
4500 - Faithful Flvers	18.00	45.00	1,070.00
4300 - Bracer Subscriptions	0.00	0.00	157.00
4800 - Other Copy Reimbursements	15.20	0.00	879.70
4600 - Individual Contributions	1,543.69	110.35	12,275.77
4550 - Group Contributions	3,324.03	2,984.21	30,824.73
4200 - Birthday Contributions	78.00	53.00	795.00
Total 4060 - Income - General	5,040.23	3,187.56	53,853.80
4062 - Income - Event Revenues			
Event Revenues			
New Year's Day Gala			
4412 - Revenue	0.00	0.00	250.00
4415 - Expenses	0.00	0.00	-730.00
Total New Year's Day Gala	0.00	0.00	-480.00
Halloween Party			
4420 - Revenue	0.00	0.00	1,746.11
4425 - Expenses	0.00	0.00	-1,822.02
Total Halloween Party	0.00	0.00	-75.91
Gratitude Dinner			
4430 - Revenue	21,402.59	19,914.00	21,402.59
4435 - Expenses	-15,485.71	-14,319.39	-15,485.71
Total Gratitude Dinner	5,916.88	5,594.61	5,916.88
Speaker Meeting			
4440 - Revenue	0.00	358.00	3,211.47
4445 - Expenses	-150.00	-268.96	-2,384.32
Speaker Meeting - Other	0.00	0.00	403.85
Total Speaker Meeting	-150.00	89.04	1,248.10
4490 - Campout	0.00	0.00	500.00
Founders Day Picnic			
4470 - Revenue	0.00	0.00	1,274.00
4475 - Expenses	0.00	0.00	-1,032.08
Total Founders Day Picnic	0.00	0.00	241.92
Corned Beef & Cribbage			
4480 - Revenue	0.00	0.00	4,855.53
4485 - Expenses	0.00	0.00	-2,770.88
Total Corned Beef & Cribbage	0.00	0.00	1,984.65
Total Event Revenues	5,768.88	5,683.65	9,276.64
Total 4062 - Income - Event Revenues	5,768.88	5,683.65	9,276.64
4083 - Event Revenues - Other	0.00	-2,800.00	1,475.00
4100 - Reno Spring Festival	0.00	-2,800.00	1,475.00
Total 4083 - Event Revenues - Other	0.00	-2,800.00	1,475.00
4084 - Income - Merchandise Sales	5,131.29	6,841.04	80,997.07
4160 - Merchandise Sales	5,131.29	6,841.04	80,997.07
4004 - Income - Merchandise Sales - Other	2.25	0.00	11.25
Total 4084 - Income - Merchandise Sales	5,133.54	6,841.04	81,008.32
4960 - Interest Income	1.71	1.30	16.90
Total Income	15,972.36	13,713.55	145,932.58
Cost of Goods Sold	3,046.18	3,842.95	45,309.41
5080 - Cost of Goods Sold	3,046.18	3,842.95	45,309.41
Total COGS	3,046.18	3,842.95	45,309.41
Gross Profit	12,926.18	10,870.60	100,124.15
Expense			
5160 - Bank Fees and charges	0.00	3.00	9.00
5120 - Professional Fees	0.00	0.00	3,480.00
5150 - Cash Over/Short	0.00	0.00	20.00
5180 - CC Service Fees	153.83	198.11	2,049.75
5181 - Convention expenses	0.00	115.00	158.48
5210 - Storage Unit	180.00	80.00	1,880.00
5220 - Shipping Charges	116.12	13.60	729.01
5230 - Alarm System	139.68	133.77	852.81
5235 - Committee Expenses	0.00	-194.40	659.97
5240 - Compensation			
5240.1 - Wages - Director	6,036.25	0.00	33,822.90
5240.2 - Wages - Assistant	939.59	0.00	10,254.45
5240 - Compensation - Other	0.00	4,319.00	426.00
Total 5240 - Compensation	7,005.25	4,319.00	44,507.25
5241 - Dental/Vision Plan	0.00	77.02	77.02
5250 - Computer expenses	0.00	0.00	285.54
5260 - Copier Leases	340.31	327.77	4,175.03
5270 - Insurance Business/Workers Comp	0.00	0.00	1,155.00
5285 - Mileage Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	70.00
5290 - Office Supplies	292.72	331.62	1,809.28
5310 - Paper	50.60	97.38	445.86
5320 - Payroll Tax Expense	535.91	330.33	3,766.45
5325 - Payroll Processing Fee	117.16	74.94	1,161.84
5330 - Postage	0.00	99.00	192.36
5340 - Rent	781.00	758.00	8,561.00
5350 - Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	250.19	489.81
5360 - Taxes & Licenses	0.00	0.00	320.00
5370 - Telephone	1,245.84	473.53	10,048.86
5380 - Trash	20.71	28.98	332.83
5390 - Utilities	67.66	105.23	880.56
5399 - Uncatagorized Expenses	0.00	0.00	345.90
Total Expense	11,076.59	7,621.07	87,330.41
Net Ordinary Income	1,849.59	2,449.53	12,563.74
Other Income/Expense			
Other Expense			
5400 - Physical inventory adjustment	0.00	0.00	-8.75
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00	-8.75
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	8.75
Net Income	1,849.59	2,449.53	12,602.49

PINK CAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Pink Can Contributions - Hospitals and Institutions
Group Contributions 2018 YTD

Group	November YTD Total	Group	November YTD Total	
4th Dimension	40.65	753.11	Women's Just For Today	94.00
A Way Home	14.00	Women's New Beginnings	144.43	
Alano Afternoon Serenity	314.85	Women's New Harmony	143.39	
Alano Brown Baggers	139.00	Women's Night Out	14.06	
Alano Club Jay Walkers	68.79	Women on Wednesday		
Alano Dawn Patrol	58.00	Women's 24 Hours A Day	219.48	
Alano Sunday Morning Speaker	64.00	Young At Heart	0.00	
Alano Sunshine Group	39.52	November Income/YTD	2678.17	
Alano Women in Recovery	104.10	October 2018 Balance Forward	3052.13	
Back Room Group	38.23	Account Balance	5730.30	
Serenity on Sunday	125.00	November Lit Distributed	1302.50	
Battle Mountain Group	31.00	Ending Balance	4427.80	
Caring and Sharing Stead	43.98			
Carson After Shifters	440.69			
Carson Big Book Babes				
Carson City Early Birds	767.35			
Carson City Sunday Fire station	866.30			
Carson City Happy Hour	116.00			
Carson Sand Baggers	1200.00			
Carson Men's No BS	148.02			
Carson Sisters in Sobriety	26.00			
Corner Stone Group	339.00			
Carson City Women's Down & Dirty	23.00			
Dayton Sunday Morning	134.66			
Diars Keep it Simple	113.00			
Ground Zero	29.83			
End of the Road Group	142.00			
Eye Opener	927.00			
Ferrley Groups	53.00			
Finnside Group	81.48			
Grayeagle	69.00			
Happy Hour	287.01			
Incline to be Sober	1175.11			
Kings Beach AA Golden Group	33.00			
Knuckle Heads	42.86			
Ladies of the Evening	113.00			
Minden Gardnerville Group	359.34			
Minden Wednesday Night Live	86.00			
Minden StepHine Way Group	219.05			
Minden Saturday Night Fever	450.49			
Mount Rose Recovery Group	277.94			
Northern California H&I	0.00			
Out and Sober	73.05			
Portola Group	338.00			
Positive Step	0.00			
Pyramal Way Group	182.96			
RTC Almost Heaven	225.00			
RTC ALOHA	15.00			
Staying Sober	23.00			
Seniors in Sobriety	186.25			
Salvation Army	25.94			
Sierraville Book Study	19.00			
Slide Mountain Serenity	152.75			
Support Hose	0.00			
South Reno on Sunday	63.50			
Southside Group	71.00			
Step 1	43.91			
Sunnyside	41.25			
The Rock Group	22.00			
Truckee Bookies	9.65			
Truckee Riv Men's	878.00			
Verdi Bookies	30.00			
Verdi Greener Pastures	202.96			
Virginia City Plug in the Jug	227.02			
Wednesday Night Live	41.00			

Distributed Literature 2018 YTD

Facilities	November YTD Total	Facilities	November YTD Total
JAILS & CORRECTIONS		TREATMENT & HOSPITALS	
Carson City Jail	1180.00	Carson Behavioral Health	400.00
Carson City Warm Springs	1672.80	Center for Hope	120.00
HNCC Carson Prison	50.00	Carson Tahoe Detox	120.00
Douglas County Jail	0.00	Crossroads - Main Campus	120.00
Church Hill County Jail	312.00	Crossroads - River House	1094.80
Lander County Jail	0.00	Empowerment Center Women	480.00
High Desert State Prison	3744.90	Gospel Mission	0.00
Humboldt County Jail	0.00	New Frontiers - Fallon	0.00
Jan Evans Detention Center	1030.00	Washoe Courts - Parr	1442.20
California Correction Center (Susanville)	979.09	Washoe Courts - SB277	0.00
Lakes Crossing	0.00	Wells Conservation Camp	0.00
LoveLok Prison	0.00	TREATMENT & HOSPITALS	
NN Transitional Housing	48.00	Bristlecone - Residential	2187.15
Stewart Corrections Camp	2075.14	Carson Behavioral Health	400.00
Washoe County - Parr	1442.20	Center for Hope	120.00
Washoe Courts - SB277	0.00	Carson Tahoe Detox	120.00
Wells Conservation Camp	0.00	Crossroads - Main Campus	120.00
TREATMENT & HOSPITALS		Crossroads - River House	1094.80
Bristlecone - Residential	2187.15	Empowerment Center Women	480.00
Carson Behavioral Health	400.00		
Center for Hope	120.00		
Carson Tahoe Detox	120.00		
Crossroads - Main Campus	120.00		
Crossroads - River House	1094.80		
Empowerment Center Women	480.00		
Gospel Mission	0.00		
New Frontiers - Fallon	0.00		
Washoe Courts - Parr	1442.20		
Washoe Courts - SB277	0.00		
Wells Conservation Camp	0.00		
TREATMENT & HOSPITALS			
Bristlecone - Residential	2187.15		
Carson Behavioral Health	400.00		
Center for Hope	120.00		
Carson Tahoe Detox	120.00		
Crossroads - Main Campus	120.00		
Crossroads - River House	1094.80		
Empowerment Center Women	480.00		
Gospel Mission	0.00		
New Frontiers - Fallon	0.00		
Washoe Courts - Parr	1442.20		
Washoe Courts - SB277	0.00		
Wells Conservation Camp	0.00		
TREATMENT & HOSPITALS			
Bristlecone - Residential	2187.15		
Carson Behavioral Health	400.00		
Center for Hope	120.00		
Carson Tahoe Detox	120.00		
Crossroads - Main Campus	120.00		
Crossroads - River House	1094.80		
Empowerment Center Women	480.00		
Gospel Mission	0.00		
New Frontiers - Fallon	0.00		
Washoe Courts - Parr	1442.20		
Washoe Courts - SB277	0.00		
Wells Conservation Camp	0.00		
TREATMENT & HOSPITALS			
Bristlecone - Residential	2187.15		
Carson Behavioral Health	400.00		
Center for Hope	120.00		
Carson Tahoe Detox	120.00		
Crossroads - Main Campus	120.00		
Crossroads - River House	1094.80		
Empowerment Center Women	480.00		
Gospel Mission	0.00		
New Frontiers - Fallon	0.00		
Washoe Courts - Parr	1442.20		
Washoe Courts - SB277	0.00		
Wells Conservation Camp	0.00		
TREATMENT & HOSPITALS			
Bristlecone - Residential	2187.15		
Carson Behavioral Health	400.00		
Center for Hope	120.00		
Carson Tahoe Detox	120.00		
Crossroads - Main Campus	120.00		
Crossroads - River House	1094.80		
Empowerment Center Women	480.00		
Gospel Mission	0.00		
New Frontiers - Fallon	0.00		
Washoe Courts - Parr	1442.20		
Washoe Courts - SB277	0.00		
Wells Conservation Camp	0.00		
TREATMENT & HOSPITALS			
Bristlecone - Residential	2187.15		
Carson Behavioral Health	400.00		
Center for Hope	120.00		
Carson Tahoe Detox	120.00		
Crossroads - Main Campus	120.00		
Crossroads - River House	1094.80		

Bill's Wife Remembers When He and She and the First A. A.s Were Very Young

As the wife of an early A.A., some of our experiences and my reactions to my husband's changed life may be interesting to other wives. Bill was an alcoholic, I believe, from the first drink he ever took, just a few months before our marriage. From then on, for seventeen years, I did everything I could think of to keep him away from liquor.

I will tell a little of our life before A.A. to help explain some of my later emotions. Bill and I had no children, so I soon felt that my job in life was to help Bill straighten himself out. As time went on, he earnestly tried to stop drinking. He was always very remorseful and perplexed the mornings-after. We would then resolve to lick this liquor situation together, launching off on some new tack.

As his drinking got worse, all decision and responsibility had to be taken by me. It was lucky that we were companionable, for gradually as our social contacts were broken we were thrust back on each other for company. In order to get away from alcohol over the week ends, I used to engineer some sort of outing, as we both loved the outdoors. If our pocketbook was flat, we might take the subway to the Dyckman Street ferry and hike along the Palisades to some scenic spot where we would nibble our sandwiches and gaze at the view. Or we might ferry to Staten Island and walk there; perhaps broiling a steak over a campfire. We have hired a rowboat at Yonkers and, using a bath towel as a sail, floated up the Hudson, to a spit of land near Nyack, where we camped and tried to sleep. We once went so far to get away from alcohol that we both gave up our jobs and took a whole year off. This we spent motorcycling and camping over half the United States.

These trips, although good for Bill's health, did nothing towards his permanent sobriety. In fact, his alcoholism grew steadily more serious. He lost job after job until I became entirely hopeless about him. And then suddenly and finally Bill straightened out through the help of an old friend. At once I was convinced of his complete change and was of course extremely happy. Bill began to go to religious meetings and to work feverishly with alcoholics. I would go to meetings too and would try to share his newfound enthusiasms. He always had some drunk in tow and would work all night or get up in the middle of the night to go to the suburbs if one called him. We had drunks all over the house; sometimes as many as five lived there at one time.

One drunk committed suicide in the house after having sold about 700 dollars worth of our clothes and luggage. Another slid down the coal chute from the street to the cellar when we refused him the front door. Two others took to fighting, and one chased the other all around the house with a carving knife. The intended victim was saved by a third drunk, who delivered the knife-minded one a knockout blow. An alcoholic who was living in the basement was invited up for a pancake breakfast. After eating his share, he suddenly put on his hat and started out of the door remarking that he was going to Childs for PLENTY of pancakes.

Bill had found himself a job about this time; and it used to take him away from home a great deal and I was left with one or more alcoholics to look after. Once one of these boys lay in the vestibule all night and screamed invectives at me because I would not let him in. He was so loud the passers-by all stopped, looked and listened. Another time it was 4 a.m. before I succeeded in towing a drunk home. He was anxious to be at his job the next morning and we had gone out around midnight to look for a doctor, having been unable to get one to come to the house at that hour. I helped his shaky steps up and down stoops, lit his cigarettes for him and finally, when we could not rouse a doctor, held a drink to his lips in a bar. When I asked him how he then felt he said, "Well, a bird can't fly on one wing." After a few more drinks I managed to get him home, but he did not get to his job the next morning. I was once suddenly taken sick, and when my sister arrived to nurse me she found five men milling around in the living room, one of them muttering, "One woman can look after five drunks but five drunks cannot look after one woman."

Now to describe my reactions to it all. When Bill first sobered up I was terribly happy but soon, without my realizing it, I began to resent the fact that Bill and I never spent any time together any more. I stayed at home while he went off somewhere scouting up new drunks or working with old ones. My life's job of sobering up Bill with all its former responsibilities was suddenly taken away from me. I had not yet found anything to fill the void. And then there was the feeling of being on the outside of a very tight little clique of alcoholics into which no mere wife could possibly enter. I did not understand what was going on within myself until one Sunday, Bill asked me to go with him to a meeting. To my own surprise as well as his I burst forth with, "Damn all your meetings," and threw my shoe at him as hard as I could.

This bad display of temper woke me up. I realized that I had been wallowing in self pity; that Bill's change was simply miraculous; that his feverish activity with alcoholics was absolutely necessary to his sobriety; and that if I did not want to be left way behind I had better jump on the bandwagon, too!

NNIG BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Business Meeting Minutes December 4, 2018 @ Alano Club in Sparks, NV

Meeting was opened at 6:30 by Chairman, Paul M. NNIG Preamble was read by Paul E. 12 Traditions were read by Ben M. Introductions were made. November Birthdays present were Ben M. with 26 years and Dave with 30 years. Nancy motioned the minutes not be approved as the By-Laws that were on the Web site were not the same as what is on the Web site now. 2nd Motion failed 5 yes 10 no 1 abstained. Motion to approve minutes, 2nd motion passed Treasurer's report given by Ronda. See attached financial report

MONTHLY REPORT

Central Office Report given by Ronda. Central office report from Ronda H. December 4, 2018

Volunteer hours- 74.05 hours

Calls into Central Office: Calls for AA help – 8; Calls for Alanon/Alateen – 1; Meeting information- 78; Retail / merchandise- 20; Other 12 step programs- 2; Events – 9; Business/Central office-93; Visitors – 252

The office had been a bit chilly this month warmed only by the volunteers and fellowship that came in, the heater was not working properly but on November 27th the Heater was replaced and it is working great. Please stop by, we always have coffee and candy. With a new website and the archives committee in the works the New Year has a lot to look forward to with many service opportunities. Hope everyone has safe and sober Holidays.

Activities Chair-Tina reported she will be working on Cribbage and Cabbage

Answering Service not present

Bracer-not present

Cooperation with the Professional Community-Ben M

My name is Ben Martin, your new CPC committee chairperson as of the November NNIG business meeting. I like service work and consider it an honor and privilege. Since last month I have acquired the NNIG CPC binder from Rhonda at central office, and, I met with former CPC chair Cheryl E. Committee member, Kelli Cooper, gave me the full 4 presentations of Orientation to Alcoholics Anonymous as well. All three ladies were extremely helpful and efficient. Northern Area General Service Bridging The Gap committee chair, Pat Brennan, gave me several great ideas to where I may begin offering professionals in our local community information about A.A. - what we can do, what we cannot do, where we are, and the purpose of Cooperation with the Professional Community. Lastly, he clarified for me what CPC of NNIG has to do with Reno's Bristlecone treatment facility and the BHS facility in Carson City -nothing. CPC of NAGS will support both entities. To this realization I am very relieved. I look forward to a very rewarding experience of service with all of you.

Public Information-Tom B. Last month we went to Sparks' high school. Yesterday we went to Reed high school for seven presentations from 730 in the morning until 230 in the afternoon. So far we have four schools committed for next semester and others should commit when they get their schedules done. We usually have five of us go which includes one member from Al-Anon. If anybody is interested we are looking for volunteers and all that is needed is a year of Sobriety to be fingerprinted which we will pay. If interested contact me at TomBenedicttb@aol.com

Corrections-not present

Treatment – Rob- In my last month's report, I brought to the committee's attention that Step2, Riverhouse and Bristlecone were in need of secretaries. I have since sat down and spoke to all the directors regarding this issue. Bristlecone-I have sat down with the lineal director and we have now filled all meetings at Bristlecone. Riverhouse-The coordinator and I have spoken and she is in the process of filling that meeting. Step 2-I made an attempt to speak with the director, in regards to the Monday meeting that needs filled, however, she is out of town until the beginning of the year. West Hills-This facility is still in need of secretaries on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and every other Sunday. Reno Behavior Health-The director called myself and asked me to come sit down with the clinical team. In this meeting I explained what H&I and Bridging The Gap consists of. They determined that they want to take baby steps as meetings are concerned. With this in mind, however, they have granted H&I one meeting a week. Depending on how receptive everyone is to the weekly meetings they will add more types of meetings to their roster. Once again, H&I can only be successful with the participation of AA members. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to be there. Rob Lutz, H&I Treatment Chair.

Bridging the Gap-Cyndy M. Cyndy has developed a new flyer and has passed them out to the IG Reps. She asked they be taken to their groups and ask if there is any interest in helping new comers coming out of treatment.

H&I Treasurer Report-Dru See financial report

Monthly Speaker Meeting-Brian A as reported by Barbara M., Speaker Meeting is this Saturday < December 8, 2018. Meeting will be held at the Silver Legacy, speaker is Wesley I. from Casabasa, CA

Sunshine-Stacy P. Hi, I'm Stacey your Sunshine Committee Chairperson. It's been slow this last month. I had 1 member with 1 visit. I know there are more members out there that could use this service. Please spread the word. There are flyers on the table. Thank you for letting me be of service.

Web-Master-Ollie K. Ollie reported he is working on moving the site to a new web host company. Web site has to be rebuilt under the new company. Ollie hasn't had time to go to Central Office to work with Ronda on this.

NNIG BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONT'D

Page 10

Northern Nevada Area 42 Liaison-Chris S. Chris reported the NAGSC had their elections for the next 2 year rotation. Chris is now the NAGSC Chair. Noel is the new Secretary. Pat S. is the new NNIG Liaison.

RENVYPAA Liaison-not present

TITYPAA Liaison – not present

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Intergroup Rep- Chris G.-Ron T.

Chris reported he had 4 contacts this month. 1st was Kris requesting 5 years sobriety for Activities Chair. Correction was made in By-Laws.3 Intergroup Reps called Chris to advise they would not be coming back due to the NOT so loving discussions. A huge Thank You to Robin Y. for her excellent coordination of the By-Laws Committee. The Committee has now been dissolved

Secretary Report-Current Secretary has resigned due to his work schedule. Barbara M., acting secretary, requested all reports be sent via e-mail to officemanager@NNIG.org

Brian D asked how long the position is open. Advised elections would be in June, Brian nominated Barbara M. as Secretary. Reps voted Barbara as secretary by acclamation.

Vice Chair-Jamie F. reported New Year's Eve committee did not get a budget or a committee chair. The new committee didn't get things done in time for the event to take place. Distribution of funds will take place in January. Jamie will act as liaison to the Web Site Committee.

Chair-Paul M. reported on the Web Site. He has been working with Ollie on this. The Steering Committee has recommended we put aside \$500.00 for the new host. Paul is still working on the new 5 year contract with our Central Office landlord. He won't sign a contract until the repairs are completed. He is looking into the maintenance information on the new HVAC system that was recently installed. Ronda now has a new contract as the full time salaried office manager.

OLD BUSINESS

Web site, want on line ordering. Calls would be reduced with the upgraded web site. Need an AD Hoc Committee for the Web Site. Ask round in your group for anyone interested in helping on this project.

Cyndy M. Archives Ad Hoc Chair appointed by Paul M. Cyndy advised the Reps of her experience with Archives. She explained the importance of maintaining our history. Barbara asked for a sense of the body if they would like to have an NNIG Archives. It was unanimous

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 P.M., 2nd

Pat B stood up and requested the Chair take note of the discrepancy in the by laws. Chair, Paul M., advised so noted and closed the meeting with the Responsibility Pledge

NNIG STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES. November 27 2018 held at Central Office open meeting 5:30pm

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Paul M.

Present: Chair: Paul M.; Vice Chair: Jamie F.; Treasurer: Kathy; Acting Secretary: Barbara M.; Intergroup Liaison: Chris G.; Bridging The Gap Chair: Cindy M.; Absent: Ron T.

Minutes were approved for October Steering Committee Meeting.

Paul requested to double check all appropriate documents being brought to the NNIG meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Office Lease: Paul reported they are leaving options open. Month to month under the old lease until the new heater and floor matters are resolved. Requesting a maintenance schedule.

Employment Letter: Jamie will complete the letter and bring all the benefits together.

Web Site Development:Ollie and Marshall are still working on a new website. It was agreed we need to set aside \$500.00 for the initial set up of the new site.

Chris G. reported he has received phone calls from representatives that said they would not be back to the NNIG meeting as it is being ram rodded by a few different people. They are tired of the continuing disagreements by a few people. Article 12.1 and 12.2 have been corrected in the current By-Laws Wording should have never been there in the first place.

A list of current registered NNIG groups needs to be updated. All groups should have an NNIG number. Ronda will work on that.

Central Office Report Ronda reported this month has been very slow. She also brought up closing early on Christmas Eve. It was agreed, Central Office will be closed ½ a day on December 24th. The Office will also be closed on December 31st so the inventory can be completed.

NEW BUSINESS: Cindy brought up having an NNIG Archives Ad Hoc Committee. She has had a lot of experience in this field in other States. Paul M. appointed Cindy as the Ad Hoc Chair to develop an Archives Committee. Nevada History of A.A. is attached.

Meeting closed at 6:35

Detox diary

A release from the desire to drink was the only miracle she needed

This is not going to work", I mumbled, as I followed my son up the snowy walkway to the entrance of the treatment center in Manitoba. It was two days after Christmas, the end of a journey that had started in November. My son had threatened to move out because he couldn't stand seeing me destroy myself. My daughter had stopped phoning me because, "It doesn't matter what time of the day I call--you're drunk."

November seemed a very bleak month for me that year. I received a request from my psychologist to come in early before our next group meeting, which I was attending once a week for panic and anxiety disorder. I had a strong feeling that this was not good news. Had he found out about my drinking? He told me that he'd received a call from a family member who was concerned about my drinking. I broke down in tears and said, "What am I going to do?" He suggested an assessment at the hospital.

I recall thinking to myself that the evaluator would get a shock when he or she saw how much I drank. I was resolved to be honest for the first time about the extent of my drinking. Why, I don't know. I'd never been honest about it before. Apparently no one who read my file found it extraordinary. That was a bit disappointing. I thought I was unique. A six-week out-patient program offered at the hospital had already started. The next session would be in the second week of January. I thought, happily, Well, I still have a few weeks of drinking until I am stranded in the desert.

I was told I would have to be admitted for several days to dry out because there was a danger I might have a seizure or a heart attack from withdrawal. I have absolutely no recollection of Christmas that year or of Christmas the previous year. I had become a person who drank all day, every day.

On December 27, I was given a room in the primary care unit. The first few days were quite dreadful. I cried a good deal of the time. Nevertheless, I recognized the kindness of the staff and the other patients. At dinner, which was cafeteria style, my hands were trembling so badly that I could not spoon the salad dressing onto my plate. A man in the line behind me said, "May I help you?" This gesture was completely unexpected. "That's very kind of you," I responded. After several years of isolation, I had forgotten how nice people could be.

My blood pressure was taken several times during the first few days and I found out later that initially it had been sky-high. Three days after admittance a nurse asked me if I'd like to go for a walk with her outside. Although it was bitterly cold outside, the sky was sunny and blue. I eagerly said, "Yes!" Taking my first sober breath of fresh air in years was exhilarating. I felt that I was seeing the world through new lenses.

For the first few days I was the only female patient at the center. I occupied myself by doing crosswords, trying to update my address book and watching TV shows in the glassed-in sun porch. It was hopeless trying to write because my handwriting was illegible; I couldn't control the shaking of my hands. In the lounge area there was a TV with a VCR. All the tapes were educational, relating to chemical dependency. I watched one that made a deep impression. It outlined in detail, with illustrations, exactly what happened within the brain when alcohol was abused. It was also in this lounge that I read my first Grapevine.

I was very fortunate that my children were fully supportive. My daughter visited me daily, even though she had a young baby at home, and my son visited me several times. On New Year's Eve, my daughter got permission to bring in Chinese food.

After eight days, it was time to go home. My blood pressure was back to normal. I had the choice of two six-week programs--inpatient at another facility or outpatient at the hospital. I was anxious about going to another strange place so I opted for the outpatient program.

My daughter was there to greet me when my son drove me home. I said, "Wait a minute," and went upstairs to the cupboard, where I had hidden a 40-ounce bottle of rye for when I returned. I took it downstairs and gave it to my daughter. Some months later, I realized this was evidence of a miracle. I had not intended to quit drinking, yet something happened that relieved me of the desire.

During the six-week program, I learned a great deal. The counselor assigned to me kept asking if I had gone to an AA meeting. My answer was, "No." She said it was vital that I have a support group. Fortunately, one day we had a speaker from AA. I was amazed at his honesty about his disease and how he had turned his life around. Then too, the counselor was so concerned and kind that I decided that I couldn't keep saying, "No" to AA. I found a meeting near my home. I only intended to go to one meeting, but I knew before the meeting was over that this was where I belonged. Some time later I realized I had found an oasis in the desert I had contemplated. God's grace lifted the obsession from me without me even asking. That is truly amazing grace. In December 2008, I celebrated 13 years of living sober and enjoying life.

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