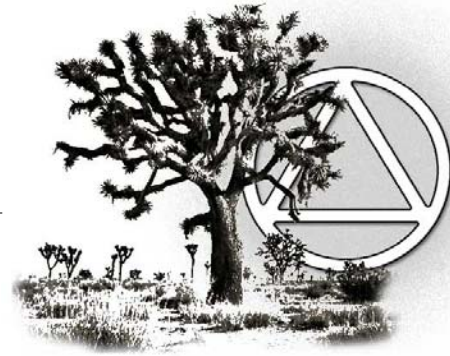


INTO ACTION

VICTOR VALLEY INTERGROUP, CENTRAL OFFICE, INC.
18888 HWY 18 SUITE 107 APPLE VALLEY CA. 92307
TELEPHONE: 760-242-9292
E-mail: vvigco_aa@yahoo.com
www.victorvalleyaa.org



JUNE 2008

Sponsorship

Sponsorship has been a great and vital blessing. Over the years I have had the pleasure and privilege of being sponsored and of sponsoring others. This experience has been revolutionary in my sobriety. I have been taught the A.A. program in many different ways over the years. Upon discovering the original way sponsors were utilized in the mid 1940's, I have come to see the purpose of an A.A. sponsor. A sponsor is basically a guide, teacher or; tutor if you will, through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Most everybody knows that the program is the 12 Steps, nothing more and nothing less. Meetings, service work and commitments are simply a result of the program working in our lives as well as ways and means of carrying the message.

Before, I believed my home group or I could save the newcomer. I thought sponsoring consisted of me doing for them what they could not do for them selves. After all that's what I was taught in the beginning. I was taken through the steps and always shown that the group, going to functions and being of service would keep me sober. Please keep in mind that this was my own experience. I came to find that God's grace and my personal relationship with him is what keeps me sober one day at a time. In sponsoring a newcomer, it is not my duty or job to tell them how to live their life. My responsibility to God, A.A. and to a newcomer is simply this: To take a new man through the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous like the first 100 did and to serve as a guide through the program to where the ongoing end result

(Sponsorship Continued on page 5)

Inside this issue:

Sobriety and being a Secretary

Central Office Financials	2	Hi, my name is Steve I am an alcoholic... I was asked to write
Step 6	3	something on how being a secretary has helped my sobriety. I have had
Subscription Form	3	other commitments: Greeter, coffee, cleanup and literature person. I have a
Things We Cannot Change	3	shift answering phone calls for central office and being a secretary is just
Up Coming Events	4	part of giving back. Except as secretary, I feel more exposed. Since I be-
Speaker Meetings	4	came secretary last November, I have made mistakes and my accountability
Recovery Puzzle	4	reaches a lot more people, so do my expectations.

I want everything to be perfect, I want everybody to be happy, and I want this meeting to be the best meeting ever. There are times I do not feel like being secretary. Good alcoholic thinking huh? Who helps keep me sober?

Norm, our Treasurer, with his patience reminds me to take a breath reassuring my commitment. Our speaker getter, Glen, with his big smile ensures me it will all work out, no matter what. Ron, our coffee person, shows up first and leaves last has an assurance about his commitment that sometimes

(Secretary Continued on page 5)

Step 6

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

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys” Page 63 in the 12 x 12. Being at this step truly is and was a life changing experience. Now knowing the true nature of my disease being that I lived a life ran by and based on Selfish, Dishonest, Self-Seeking, Frightened and Inconsiderate motives I now saw the truth behind all my thoughts and actions. The Big Book puts it perfectly on what to do at, and about Step 6:

We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all, every-one? If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing.

-A.A. Big Book p.76

The first sentence is a powerful one and reminds us that since the beginning willingness has been one of the many keys in the doors of sobriety. Every door we have faced in our recovery has been opened with a key of willingness. I see today how

indispensable and vital willingness is to the foundation, maintenance and ongoing life of our recovery. The second sentence asks: Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? It took me a few years to really understand in depth why this sentence had a question mark after it. Sadly enough there were some defects that I thought I could still handle “they weren’t that bad” I can still handle these, was the illusion I was under. Even though I had admitted that they were objectionable, there was still a false hope that I could manage these without the assistance of GOD. However the question is up to us individually. Are we ready to let God remove All the things... with willingness I could say yes. The next question: Can He now take them all, every one? I did believe he could and would. That is why I had some fear of this step, I knew in my heart and from my experience and that of others in the program that GOD would take them all every one, as long as I was willing to ask Him and to let them go. For myself, it

(Step 6 Continued on page 5)

THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

In loving memory of Don Butterworth

For many years (about 14) Don worked at your Central Office helping the newcomer and finished out a long career helping others by answering the phones at home (call forwarding) on Thursday evenings. Don passed on May 27th, 2008 with over 17 years of sobriety.

Bill Dahl long time Victor Valley resident passed away with over 31 years of sobriety Services were held in Las Vegas. Bill’s favorite topic when he had a meeting was “Gratitude” an open invitation for those who knew Bill to share with us his stories. Bill passed away on May 29, 2008

Greg Heath of HUG passed on May 26, 2008 with six years sober.

Quotable quotes

We were in a position where life was becoming impossible, and if we had pasted into the region from which there is no return through human aid, we had but two alternatives: one was to go on t the bitter end, blotting out the consciousness of our intolerable situation as best as we could; and the other, to accept spiritual help. Page 25 Big Book



I would like to be put on the newsletter mailing list:

Also is enclosed is a donation: \$ _____

(please enclose a donation to help support your newsletter)

Please make check or money order payable to:

Victor Valley Intergroup

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

UP COMING EVENTS

District 19 and your Central Office are hosting the 1st Annual G.S.R. and Secretary Workshop.

When: Saturday June 21st.

Where: Victor Valley Alano Club
11085 Central RD. Apple Valley CA.

Time: 11:00 am—2:00 pm

Bring a Friend, a Newcomer, a Sponsor.. Anyone with questions and looking for answers about A.A. come see how central Office and General Service saves the lives of people like you and me. What are secretary duties? What are the duties of the G.S.R.? There will be 2 local workshops to answer these questions and lunch will be served! Hope to see you all there.

Founders Day Picnic and speaker meeting

When: Saturday June 7th, 2008

Where: T.X.I. Park Ore Grand
\$9.00 Adults / \$5.00 Kids at the event

Speaker— Bob F. from Northridge at 10:30 am
Lunch around noon fun for the whole family. Hope to see you all there.

19th Annual Inland Empire Men's A.A. Banquet \$35 per ticket
Saturday June 14 6-10 pm at UCR Extension 1200 University Ave, Riverside Doors open at 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm, Speaker at 8 pm. No tickets at the door.

For info call: Thomas B. (951) 682-8129 or Smiling Bob (951) 637-2515

I am responsible . . .

When anyone, anywhere,
reaches out for help, I want
the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that : I an responsible.

Speaker Meetings

Saturday 7:00 pm

8518 Maple ave. (Naz. Church) Hesperia CA.

6/7—Eddie D.—Lancaster

6/14—Bill R.— Covina

6/21—Steve S.—Redlands

6/28—Hal & Joanie T.— Banning/Beaumont

7/5—Rachel L.—Bakersfield

Saturday 7:30 pm

14933 Wakita rd. (old church of the valley)
Apple Valley CA.

6/7—Dirk D. Riverside

6/14—To Be Announced

6/21— Jim F. Riverside

6/28— To Be Announced

RECOVERY PUZZLE

ABANDONED AFFLICTED AGHAST CEASE
BELLIGERENT DEFECTS DEBAUCH CRUX
CHARACTER DUBIOUS GRATEFUL HONEST
LAURELS OPINION PRODIGY REALITY

C	J	Y	Z	S	D	X	C	M	A	T	S
H	D	T	H	F	L	E	S	F	N	U	T
A	E	I	L	O	A	E	F	E	O	H	C
R	B	L	R	S	N	L	R	I	E	B	E
A	A	A	E	T	I	E	B	U	P	O	F
C	U	E	L	C	G	U	S	I	A	Y	E
T	C	R	T	I	D	J	Y	T	N	L	D
E	H	E	L	A	G	H	A	S	T	R	O
R	D	L	A	B	O	N	D	O	N	E	D
J	E	J	Y	G	I	D	O	R	P	X	Z
B	B	N	L	U	F	E	T	A	R	G	W
X	O	P	I	N	I	O	N	X	U	R	C

(Sponsorship Continued from page 1)

will be a developing maturing conscious relationship with the Creator; and to where the man depends on God and God alone for his sobriety and his life, not me or anyone else for that matter. In the midst of all that we will come across, a time will come when you will not know what to do where to turn or how to handle these situations sober. The trials you will have will need more than what a sponsor or a meeting can give you. That is

where your personal relationship with God comes in. Together we will come to learn, live and experience that we can't do this by ourselves and we don't want to. We will want to do this with God Behind us, God within us, and God in front of us. And Carry this message to the still suffering Alcoholic. In the end, I am not a marriage counselor nor am I a financial advisor. I am not a probation officer or a banker or a boss. I am a sponsor—not a replacement for God.

~Nick M

(Secretary Continued from page 1)

baffles me. Our greeter, Tom, makes me feel safe, as I know the newcomer feels with his warm welcome. Our greeter, Allen, a newcomer shows up with warmth giving to all who walk through the door. Our sassy cake person, Helene, lets me know that when I trip it's the journey of the fall that counts. (I think she has stuck her foot out a couple of times.) Our audio person, Steve H, is right on top of his commitment bringing his good humor. Our cleanup person, Bill, without hesitation or comment cleaned up after a kid who vomited all over the floor. Our literature person, Kim, with her warm smile takes care of the newcomer. Our Inter-Group rep. Wayne, offers calm and warm guidance. It is from these people who hold their sobriety and commitments in high honor that I learn how to hold my sobriety and commitment in high

honor.

Recently our meeting had to change buildings one hour before meeting time without any prior notification. Even the regular meeting comers jumped in and calmly moved everything to the other building two parking lots and a street away.

When I started coming to A.A. I was afraid of people. I was afraid of being found out. I could not stand making a mistake much less stand myself. I was very much alone. I heard the highest honor of an alcoholic is giving back what has been so freely given. As I get hugs from these people I also get validated, I get to be of service. My sobriety is reinforced through giving back.

From one alcoholic to another thank you for allowing me to get to know you but my greatest gift thank you for allowing me to get to know me.

~Steve W.

(Step 6 Continued from page 2)

was easy to ask and much more difficult to let go. Today I know why they were difficult to let go. Those defects that I still wanted to hold on to were an excuse for me to somehow be in what I think is control. If I still hold onto these items I can have control over them and I can manage these areas of my life. "I don't need God" was the underlying motive there, of my own will and power I can do this. That is another part of alcoholic insanity, believing in a lie. The last sentence in this step leaves no room for excuses. If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help

us be willing. I noticed it states "will not let go" and sometimes in my head it would be stated "I can't let go." There isn't anything God can't handle & there isn't anything I can't let go of when I ask God for the willingness. When we do this we have no excuse for holding onto these defects. As a direct result of Steps 1 through 5 at this point, I had the willingness to have God take from me the items that I had admitted were objectionable. I didn't make it easy at first because I still chose to struggle with Self rather than ask God for help like the Big Book says. So now that I am willing, what do I do? Take a look at step 7.

~Nick M.