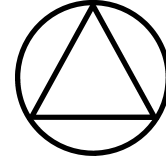


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Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship designed and administered by a bunch of ex-drunks whose only qualifications for membership are that they can't hold their liquor and have decided they don't want to learn how. Not that they could anyway, they never could, and it's highly unlikely that they ever would.

It has no rules, dues or fees, not anything else that any sensible organization seems to require.

At meetings, the speaker starts on one subject, winds up talking about something entirely different, and concludes by saying he doesn't know anything about the program except that it works. The groups are always broke, yet always seems to have money to carry on. They are always losing members but seem to grow. They claim A.A. is a selfish program but they always seem to be trying to give it away and it do something for others.

Every group passes laws, rules, edicts and pronouncements that everyone blithely ignores; members who disagree with anything have the privilege to walk out in a huff, quitting forever, only to return as if nothing has happened and be greeted accordingly. Nothing is ever planned 24 hours ahead, yet great projects are born and survive magnificently. Nothing in A.A. is according to Hoyle. How can it survive?

Perhaps it is because we have learned to live and laugh at ourselves. God mad man. He made laughter too. Perhaps He is pleased with our disorganized efforts and makes things right no matter who pushes the wrong button. Maybe He is pleased, not with our lack of perfection, but with our sincerity. Maybe He is pleased with our trying to be nobody bout ourselves. We don't know how it works, but it does, and members keep receiving their dividends from their A.A. investments. It is smart to be sober, and much easier, my friends, to stay sober than to get sober.

Author Unknown

Submitted by an old school chum of mine (Craig B.)
Gary G., Jacumba, CA

2008 Faithful Fivers

My apologies to the Faithful Fivers who have donated in the past who didn't have the amounts donated listed. I ran out of room on last year's financial pages. So here is the complete list of those who donated in 2008 when the brilliant conception of Faithful Fivers was started.

Betty B.

NOVEMBER 2008

Pete P.	25.00
Sue E.	10.00
Sheldon S.	5.00
Craig B.	5.00
Betty B.	5.00

DECEMBER 2008

Spence O.	60.00
Wayne S.	20.00
Wayne U.	20.00
Kathy G.	15.00
Sam D.	5.00
Sheldon S.	5.00
Betty B.	5.00

SPANISH CONVENTION

Dear Members of Alcoholics Anonymous of the High Desert:

The A.A. Committee for 6th Congreso del Inland Empire invites you to our three day event. The members of this committee were chosen by delegates of different Latino A.A. groups of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Our objective is to organize the 6th Congress that will be held at the Ambassador Hotel, located on 15494 Palmdale Rd., Victorville, CA 92394. The event will be as follows:

- On April 24, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., we will have open meetings.
- On April 25, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., we will have open meetings.
- On April 26, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., we will have open and closed meetings.
- We will be serving coffee, water and snacks.

Our hope is to see you at [the events offering meetings in English]. We know that you guys will relay the message to all the A.A. members of the High Desert. If the members of your groups decide to have meetings, we will provide a conference room that holds 50 people, at no cost.

I am available to answer any questions at 760-397-7450.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Elias G., Public Relations Secretary

Intergroup Minutes – February 2009

The meeting was called to order by Sam D. who led us in the Serenity Prayer at 0930. Glen read the Traditions.

Matt read the minutes from December 20, 2008 meeting.

Treasurer Sheldon S. reported that there were \$1,532.00 in group donations this month. Expenses were \$4,400.00 this month due to taxes. Had to tap into CD for \$4,500.00.

Office Manager's report from Craig B. states there were 212 info calls and 1 12 Step call that came into the office. Call forwarding had 196 info calls and 3 12 Step call. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 1 – 4 PM office shifts needs volunteers to cover the shifts. Pass the word. We want to thank Faithful Fivers as well as all groups for their contributions. And example of a Wrightwood group donating just to Central Office instead of splitting up contributions.

Old Business: Wayne, the Founder's Day Chair, says picnic will be Saturday, June 13, 2009, 10am – 3pm. He still needs co-chair for event.

New Business: Craig states that books from the Grapevine are up \$1.00. There is a new Grapevine Beginners Book, not just for beginners though. Reminder: We sell chips and medallions. Let your groups know.

Announcements: Elias G. from the 6th Congreso del Inland Empire states they are holding a 3 day event April 24 – 26, 2009 at the Ambassador in Victorville. Invited Intergroup as well as all other groups to come and partake with them. Any groups that decide to participate will have a conference room provided for meetings at no charge.

0945 Wayne U. motioned to close.

Glen seconded.

Elias prayed out.

Submitted by Matt N. filling in for Betty B.

How I Like to Sponsor

There are as many ways to sponsor as there are alcoholics, but here's what I try to do when I feel that meetings with my sponsee are not as productive as they could be. I ask questions based on the Steps:

- Anything unmanageable in your life currently?
- Any signs of insanity in your thoughts or actions?
- Where is the Third Step in your problem-solving?
- Updating your Fourth and Fifth Step: Current fears? Anxiety? Resentment? Shame? Emerging assets?
- Do your defects remain the same? Are some diminishing? Shall we say the Seventh Step Prayer?
- Do you owe anyone an amends? What's your plan to do the amends?
- Can we talk about your prayer life? AM? PM?
- What A.A. literature are you reading?
- What service are you providing at meetings? Making coffee? Setting up/putting away chairs? Serving as secretary or treasurer?
- Are you greeting newcomers? Making certain that they're invited to after-meeting lunches, etc.?

While having these discussions, I'm comfortable. I share my experience, strength, hope and Steps, trying for brevity and honesty, presenting myself as a work-in-progress, warts and all.

I recognize that I am not Lucy van Pelt, girl psychiatrist, or a financial expert, and I frequently refer my sponsee to another alcoholic familiar with the problem, or a therapist or a tax attorney – whatever works. Our bond is the healing power of the Steps in action.

Joan C., New Buffalo, MI
Via, *The Grapevine*

COMMITMENT

Understanding is the key to right principles and attitudes, and right action is the key to good living.

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 125

There came a time in my program of recovery when the third stanza of the Serenity Prayer — “The wisdom to know the difference” — became indelibly imprinted in my mind. From that time on, I had to face the ever-present knowledge that my every action, word and thought was within, or outside, the principles of the program. I could no longer hide behind self-rationalization, nor behind the insanity of my disease. The only course open to me, if I was to attain a joyous life for myself (and subsequently for those I love), was one in which I imposed on myself an effort of commitment, discipline, and responsibility.

Daily Reflections, p. 55

From the Office Manager

In March, I received a letter from the G.S.O. in regards to increasing the prices of the books. The following is an edited copy of that letter:

“Subject: Book Price Increase

“Please accept our warm greetings from the General Service Office, and especially from the Publications Department.

“As I am sure you all know, A.A. is not immune to current economic conditions. At the G.S.O. we have seen increases in costs for operations, warehousing and shipping. The A.A. World Services Board asked management to come up with solutions to help keep our prudent reserve at an acceptable level. We presented scenarios for making changes to our shipping and handling charges, and for increasing literature prices. After long discussion, the board approved increasing book prices, while keeping our shipping and handling charge practices the same. The current discount structure will remain unchanged.

“The price increase will take effect July 1, 2009. . . . The prices for the French, Spanish and foreign-language editions of these books will increase at the same rate.

“With the warmest regards,

“Christopher Cavanaugh, Publications Director,
A.A.W.S.”

Here is an example of some of the price increase we will be seeing:

B-1	Big Book	increase of \$2.00
B-30	Soft cover Big Book	increase of \$2.00
B-2	12 X 12	increase of \$1.00

ALSO:

Keep in mind that the California sales tax has increased 1 % as of April 1, 2009 (and no, that is not an April Fools joke). What that means to us is now our sales tax has risen to 8.75%.

I will keep you posted as we get more information.

Craig B., Office Manager

Upcoming Events

January 10 - 13, 2008
18th Annual River Roundup,
Laughlin, NV. For more informa-
tion call Jack at 928-770-4074 or
visit www.rcco-aa.org.

March 7 - 9, 2008
24th Annual High Desert Con-
vention at the Hilton in Vic-
torville. For more informa-
tion call 760-953-6640 or 760-
885-9195. Or visit
www.highdesrtconvention.org

Attendance at Intergroup

1. Doug H.
H.U.G.
2. Melvin D.
No Complaints
3. Betty B.
Secretary
4. Ben B.
Chairman
5. Sam D.
Assoc. Member
6. Sonny O.
Not A Glum Lot
7. Paul B.
Sunday Campfire Group
8. Craig B.
Office Manager
9. Wayne U.
Ways and Means
10. Angela P.
Women's Wed. Meeting