

NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

APR 2016

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"The trouble with us alcoholics was this: We demanded that the world give us happiness and peace of mind in just the particular order we wanted to get it -- by the alcohol route. And we weren't successful. But when we take the time to find out some of the spiritual laws, and familiarize ourselves with them, and put them into practice, then we do get happiness and peace of mind..... There seem to be some rules that we have to follow, but happiness and peace of mind are always here, open and free to anyone"

- Reprinted from *Dr. Bob and the Good Old-timers*, p. 308

Letters/Emails to the Editor: Special Thanks to Betty B.

"That was a very moving letter from Betty B. She has done a great job for many, many years, not only with the newsletter, but with her family and those she sponsors too. She has had many trails and tribulations but always remains steadfast."

— From *Wayne S.*

"So many thanks to Betty for her job on the newsletter all these years. A job WELL DONE, Lady!"

— From *Katherine F.*

"Just finished reading the newsletter and felt a HUGE wave of gratitude.

Gratitude not only for my sobriety, but for those who are of Service. Betty B., you are my hero! To travel the path of cancer treatment, and continue to TRY to be of Service is just amazing. Most of us would have set those duties aside and focused on our physical recovery. Not Betty! Woman.....whatever task you took, you followed through with the tenacity of my beloved Pit Bull Terriers!

Just want to take a moment to thank someone who really DESERVES a big pat on the back, and a HUGE hug! Love you, Ms. Betty, and hope you get the rest you need to heal and have a happy LONG Life!"

— From *Linda C.*

The Fourth Step

"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

The 12x12 begins its explanation of the 4th step with the statement, "Creation gave us instincts for a purpose." It goes on to say that we all have desires for, to name a few, sexual relationships, material and emotional security, and for companionship. These are social instincts, and they are necessary. Importantly, however, the 12x12 quickly clarifies: "Yet these instincts, so necessary for our existence, often far exceed their proper functions." I, like many alcoholics, resonate with this observation on human instinct and behavior. It has been my experience to want to overdo some of these things. It seems that somewhere along the line I got the idea that if a little of something is good, then a whole lot of it has got to be great! This type of thinking thus led me down a path filled with a great many excesses. Too much wine, women and song, as the saying goes.

When our instincts "exceed their proper functions," then "our great natural assets, the instincts, have turned into physical and mental liabilities." (In my experience, I think it also helps to consider the *spiritual* liabilities.) For the alcoholic, these liabilities can bring us to our knees. The 4th step allows us the opportunity to acknowledge and address the fall-out from our run-away and/or misdirected instincts. With this, the 4th step asks that we make a "... vigorous and painstaking effort to discover what these liabilities in which of us have been, and are. We want to find exactly how, when and where our natural desires have warped us."

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The step goes on to say: "We wish to look squarely at the unhappiness this has caused others and ourselves." The 4th step is thus designed to help us carefully consider our defects of character. As it is written in the 12x12, "Without a searching and fearless moral inventory, most of us have found that the faith which really works in daily living is still out of reach."

There are three areas that are brought up in the beginning of this step. They are: sex desire, financial security, and dependence on a person stronger than self. Our book tells us if we place the "sex desire" ahead of everything else we can destroy our chances for emotional and material security. We are reminded that if "sex runs riot" we are likely to be in danger of some type of uproar. When it comes to financial security, it may be hard to justify spending money on anything. I have sometimes fallen into the trap of thinking: "If I just had enough money, all of my problems would be solved." Well? I can tell you from experience there have been many problems that I have created that money would not even begin to solve. The last area is a complete dependence on someone stronger than myself for guidance and protection. This reminds me of something I heard Father Quinn say once, and I'll paraphrase here, "When you ask someone to be your complete source of protection and guidance you are asking for a set up for failure. You are asking that person to do what only God can be expected to do." As the book says, if one chooses to do this: "Disillusion and helplessness are his lot. In time, all his protectors either flee or die, and he is once more left alone and afraid."

The 4th step can seem daunting at first, but its function in AA is of the utmost importance to recovery and, as the book says, provides "first tangible evidence of our complete willingness to move forward."

Submitted by Scott J.



Things We Cannot Change

"Big Mike F" and his wife Karle F. passed away (within a week of each other) in March 2016, with over 25 years sober. Both attended meetings at the Victor Valley Alano Club.

They will be missed.

A Non-Believer's View On Life

I will live my life according to these beliefs
God does not exist
It is just foolish to think
That there is a God with a cosmic plan
That an all-powerful God brings purpose to the pain
and suffering in the world
Is a comforting thought, however
Is only wishful thinking
People can do as they please without eternal consequences
The idea that
I am deserving of Hell
Because of sin
Is a lie meant to make me a slave to those in power
"The more you have, the happier you will be"
Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose
In a world with no God
There is freedom to be who I want to be
But with God
Everything is fine
It is ridiculous to think
I am lost and in need of saving.

A Believer's View on Life

(Now, read from bottom to top to see a different view.)

HELP WANTED

Your Central Office has the following days/
opportunities open for YOU to be of service

Office Shifts

Alternates Needed

Call Forwarding

Thursday (Every other week) 4pm to 9 am
Friday (Every other week) 4pm to 9am

12 Step List—All cities, men and women

A.A. members willing to talk with newcomers on the phone to give information about A.A., carry the message, etc. For more information, call Craig B. at your Central Office: 760-242-9292

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 31, 2016

Savings	\$ (1,499.54)	\$ 19,389.33
C.D.	\$ 1.76	\$ 7,133.57
Cash in Union Checking		\$ 6,335.77

INCOME	MARCH	Y.T.D.
Group Donations	\$ 1,006.34	\$ 3,438.11
Birthdays	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 23.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 1,292.00	\$ 1,989.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 800.07	\$ 2,091.53
Coffee Kitty	\$ 22.00	\$ 77.35
Buck of the Month	\$ 10.40	\$ 10.40
Ride for Recovery	\$ 643.00	\$ 1,750.00
AA Mountain Conference	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 18.00	\$ 55.00
INCOME FOR THE MONTH	\$ 4,091.81	\$ 9,819.39

EXPENSES	MARCH	Y.T.D.
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 1,080.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 131.13	\$ 395.22
Utilities	\$ 69.09	\$ 238.85
Manager Salary	\$ 1,027.28	\$ 3,081.84
Charter	\$ 81.95	\$ 234.62
Printing	\$ 99.90	\$ 201.40
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 327.52	\$ 1,072.65
Chips and Medallions	\$ 97.95	\$ 1,182.25
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ -	\$ 67.65
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 465.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ -	\$ 1,081.28
Credit Card Fee	\$ 34.15	\$ 83.75
Alarm	\$ 96.00	\$ 96.00
Ride For Recovery	\$ 210.00	\$ 485.00
Stamps	\$ 49.00	\$ 147.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,583.97	\$ 9,912.51

INCOME BEFORE LITERATURE	\$ 1,507.84	\$ (93.12)
LITERATURE		
Sales	\$ 1,537.31	\$ 3,533.16
Purchases	\$ 1,638.00	\$ 1,638.00
Total Literature	\$ (100.69)	\$ 1,895.16
NET INCOME	\$ 1,407.15	\$ 1,802.04

APPLE VALLEY		
Anonymous Group	\$ 172.00	\$ 491.74
Keep it Simple	\$ -	\$ 121.00

Sunday Coffee Kitty	\$ -	\$ 42.00
There is a Solution	\$ -	\$ 120.00
Mon. 5 p.m. Open Participation	\$ -	\$ 45.00
Wed. Womens Participation	\$ -	\$ 90.00
How It Works	\$ 15.00	\$ 109.00
Simple Changes	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 38.00	\$ 193.18
Questions & Answers	\$ -	\$ 30.00
Front & Center	\$ 109.34	\$ 345.42
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
T.G.I.F.	\$ -	\$ 55.82
Friday Nite Lites	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Monday Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 65.00
Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk.	\$ 102.00	\$ 102.00

Barstow

Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
Friday Nite Live	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00

Ft. Irwin

New Horizons II	\$ -	\$ 22.95
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HESPERIA

Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 450.00
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LUCERNE VALLEY

The Place	\$ -	\$ 20.00
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Newberry Springs

Thurs. Big Book Study	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Sat Breakfast Club	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00

Phelan

Thurs. Big Book	\$ -	\$ 30.00
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Silver Lakes

No Valid Complaints	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
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VICTORVILLE

Friday Speaker Meeting	\$ -	\$ 40.00
Tumbleweed Group	\$ -	\$ 10.00

Wrightwood

Wed. Mens Stag	\$ -	\$ -
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Intergroup Minutes

April 16th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Helen M., who led us in the Serenity Prayer.

12 Traditions were read by Doug. Present were: Helen M., Bill P., Chad F., Carl O., Ted, Doug, Craig B., and Julia W. Minutes from March meeting were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Chad F. gave the Treasurer's report as of 3/31/16, which showed we had: \$19,389.33 in savings, \$7,131.57 in C.D., and \$6,335.77 in Checking. We had a total income of \$4,091.81. Expenses were total of \$2,583.97. Income before literature was \$1,507.84 with a net income of \$1,407.15.

Office Manager's Report: Craig B. delivered the Office Manager's Report for February. Central Office had 106 visitors, 195 information calls, 1 12-step calls. Call-forwarding 118 information calls and 2 12-step calls. Totals were 313 information and 3 12 step calls.

Craig B. thanked Bob. B. for new computer program, which has been helping the current Central Office staff.

Craig B. reiterated that there are still open positions for those wanting a commitment. There are two positions open for "call forwarding," one for every other Thursday and one for every other Friday. (Requirements: Permission from sponsor and 6 months suggested sobriety.) Please call Craig B. at the Central Office if interested, 760-242-9292.

Newsletter Report: Julia W. reported that Newsletter operations are continuing. At present, Newsletter is released the third week of each month on the Monday following the monthly Intergroup meeting (to ensure Newsletter has most up-to-date financials and C.O. statistics).

District 19 Report: It was reported that members preparing for the June service events. Further, there are some proposed changes to text in the service manual.

H&I Report: No representative present / no report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill P., Secretary

CO STATISTICS	March	Y.T.D.
Visitors	106	316
Information Calls	195	516
12-Step Calls	1	3
CALL FORWARDNG		
Information Calls	118	343
12 Step Calls	2	8
TOTALS		
Information Calls	313	859
12 Step Calls	3	11

Butt Prints in the Sand

One night I had a wondrous dream,
One set of footprints there was seen,
The footprints of my precious Lord,
But mine were not along the shore.

But then some stranger prints appeared,
And I asked the Lord, "What have we here?"
Those prints are large and round and neat,
"But Lord they are too big for feet."

"My child," He said in somber tones,
"For miles I carried you alone.
I challenged you to walk in faith,
But you refused and made me wait."

"You disobeyed, you would not grow,
The walk of faith, you would not know.
So I got tired, I got fed up,
and there I dropped you on your butt."

"Because in life, there comes a time,
when one must fight, and one must climb.
When one must rise and take a stand,
or leave their butt prints in the sand."

Submitted by Duke of Apple Valley

If you would like to receive or send news to
the newsletter, please contact us here:
newsletterforthefellowship@yahoo.com