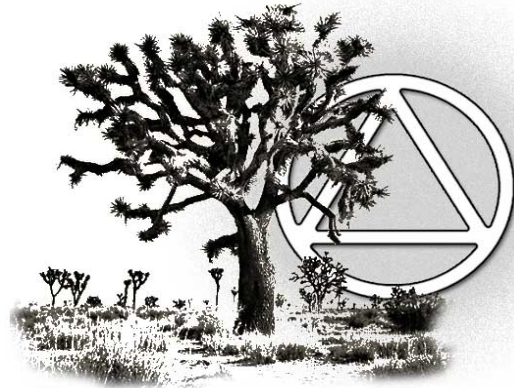


# INTO ACTION

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## As Spence Sees It

For the next Three Months we will be featuring a little something which we call As Spence Sees it. We do hope you enjoy what you read.

### Any Lengths

I never took directions, so I don't give directions.

I only make *suggestions* based on my *experience*.

If you desire sobriety, here are some of the things that I suggest you do.

However, if you choose to do otherwise,

be prepared to assume responsibility for the consequences that may arise.

My *Suggestions* are:

### Program:

1. **Don't Drink.** If you don't pick up a drink you won't get drunk. If you don't get drunk, your life will get better. (For some it may feel like it's getting worse, but it is always darkest before the dawn).

2. **Do 90 meetings in 90 days.** Afterwards a minimum of 3 to 4 meetings a week is strongly recommended.

3. **Call your sponsor everyday for 90 days** and communicate with your sponsor at least twice a week thereafter. (It's not important that your sponsor hear from you – it's important that you call!)

4. Attend at least 1 meeting a week **with** your sponsor.

5. When you really don't feel like going to a

meeting – **go to a meeting!**

6. Take the **Steps** (1-9). Afterwards, take 10, 11 & 12 daily.

7. **Be of service.** Have at least one commitment at a meeting. Hold it for the required duration and then give it up. Have at least one, but don't take on numerous commitments simultaneously.

8. When the little voice in the back of your head says: "maybe you should call your sponsor," **Call your sponsor!**

9. If you are new, **introduce yourself** to at least 3 new people at each meeting. As you get to know most of the people in a meeting, introduce yourself to all people that you haven't seen before.

10. **Stick your hand out to all newcomers:** "Hi, my name is...." Offer them your phone number. Give them rides to meetings; go to coffee after the meeting. Make yourself available to be a sponsor. (Top of pages 20 & 128)

11. **Make no significant life altering changes for at least a year!** If you are married, stay married. If single stay single and don't start any new relationships. Avoid changing jobs, etc.

12. **So what, do it anyway!** This is a **Program of Action.** Just do it. No action, No change. If nothing changes – Nothing changes! Get it?

*(Any Lengths Continued on page 3)*



*(Any Lengths Continued from page 1)*

13. In meetings **Identify yourself as an Alcoholic** only, don't be an "and a." You can discuss other substances (the Book does – top of page 7), but if you claim to be something else, that sets you apart from us – unique – "Yeah but, my case is different!" Make no mistake, we respect all other 12 Step programs & use them as necessary. When you are in AA be in AA – The 1<sup>st</sup> word in the Book is "We."

14. **Live the Program!** (page 83). Live your program as though your life depended on it – it does! Follow the dictates of a Higher Power and you will presently live in a new and wonderful world! (page 100).

15. **Avoid alcohol in all forms.** Read labels. No mouthwash, no food cooked in alcohol, etc.

16. This is real life, and it is occurring now as we speak! **Live in reality.**

17. Alcoholics Anonymous has proven to work

effectively for most of us. "Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path." However, the program also realizes that some of us may require further **outside assistance**. If possible, wait a year before seeking additional assistance. Your emotional state will change dramatically within that first year. Then, if you still feel the need for further help – seek it. But seek the assistance of a practitioner who will walk you through your difficulties without the use of mood altering chemicals. Generally, if such chemicals are used, the problem will still be present when the chemicals are no longer prescribed and little or no emotional progress will have been made.

18. Include a **Book study** as one of your regular meetings.

19. **Avoid mood altering prescription drugs.** If they are absolutely necessary, take only as prescribed.

20. **Respect** Alcoholics Anonymous and those who have walked the path ahead of you, for you and I stand on the shoulders of Humble Giants!

## Your Central Office News

### Help Wanted

Your Central Office has the following days open for you to be of service. As of 8/7/08

#### Office Shifts:

Monday	1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Wednesday	1:00 PM—4:00 PM
Thursday	10:00AM—1:00 PM
Thursday	1:00 PM—4:00 PM

#### Call Forwarding:

Every other Saturday 9:00 AM—9:00 AM  
(or every Saturday)  
Every other Sunday 9:00 AM—9:00 AM  
Every other Thursday 4:00 PM—9:00 AM  
Alternates needed also to fill in

Please pass the word

For more information call Craig B. at Central Office (760) 242-9292 or (760) 240-1201

### District 19 has a new address

District 19 PO Box 1934 Barstow CA. 92312

New meeting directories are out if your meeting has old outdated directories come on down and get some new ones. We want to direct the newcomer to the right meetings don't we?

Meeting Changes Victorville

Tuesday 6:00 PM Men's Stag cl. @ V4

Changed 7:30 PM Open Participation to "In The Can" @V4

Saturday and Sunday 6:30 PM attitude Adjustment @V4

Saturday 7:30 Big Book Workshop @ V4

Delete 7:00 PM 12 X 12 @ Mobile Home Park

Hesperia

Sunday 7:00 AM Open Participation on Maple st.

Newberry Springs

Saturday 10:00 AM Breakfast Club @ Senior Center  
33383 Newberry Rd. Call Roxanne (760) 257-4105

**Tradition Eight:** Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

*“We have gained some understanding of the words: Freely ye have received, freely give.”*

~Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 166

Few of our Traditions evoke as much controversy and debate as Tradition Eight. In fact, Bill W. himself struggled with this concept when faced with the choice between financial hardship and a large salary working for a hospital as a “professional” Twelfth Stepper. Fortunately for us, the group conscience prevailed and Alcoholics Anonymous continues to thrive. But we are still left with the question: “What is professional as defined by Tradition Eight?” Put simply, it is operating within the framework of the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous for personal monetary gain. As experience taught the First 100 and has taught many of us; “money and spirituality do not mix” (12X12, p. 166). What, then, do we make of those who seem to profit from Alcoholics Anonymous? An important distinction lies in the difference between actual Twelfth Step service and the work that makes Twelfth Step work possible. At first glance, this appears to be a justification using semantics. Upon closer inspection, a clear line emerges between professionalism and service

work. Office Managers, Administrative Assistants, and others performing service in Alcoholics Anonymous are sometimes paid for their work—even they belong to our Fellowship. The distinction here bears out in the actual work performed. It is not that they are *doing* Twelfth Step work; they are simply making Twelfth Step work *possible* (12X12, p. 168). Perhaps one of the most hotly debated topics about professional A.A. members springs from the creation of the Drug Court and Sober Living programs. Here are two organizations that employ sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous for the express purpose of carrying the message to other alcoholics. It might then follow that these members were being paid to perform Twelfth Step work, thereby violating Tradition Eight. These questions were not foreign to the co-founders of our little society when addressing “A.A. members have bought farms or rest homes where badly beat up toppers could find needed care” (12X12, p.170) and their words sum up the proposition thusly: “We think the answer is ‘No. Members who select such full-time careers do not professionalize A.A.’s Twelfth Step” (12X12, p. 170). And as we have been reminded, going back to that fateful day when Bill W. was on the train convinced that he had received a sign from God, the laborer is indeed worthy of his hire.

~James J.

Apple Valley

## A COMMITMENT TO OUR INTERGROUP OFFICE!

Over two years ago, at the urging of my sponsor, I volunteered for a 3 hour office shift at our Intergroup Central Office. I went into Central Office with the attitude of volunteering to help others and to give back to the AA program that has given me so much! What I didn't realize was how much this commitment has done for me too! Many times, it is the same as an AA meeting, whether it is the people you encounter or reading the AA "Grapevine," magazine each month! I answer phones, sell literature and also refer some people to other agencies, whether it is NA, Alanon, a rehab facility, etc. A lot of calls are people with court

cards, asking where are the classes and how much is it! We explain it is not a class, it is a meeting and we pass the basket. There are no dues. There is a treasure trove of AA literature and pamphlets available and when time allows, I read them! We are an important source for the sick alcoholic needing a meeting or a twelve step call. Visitors and vacationers or people passing through the area phone us for a meeting place. We maintain an up-to-date directory of all the meetings, times and locations. We may sell a large order of literature or sell a newcomer their first Big Book. From week to week, the calls and the visitors are never the same. Each time the phone

*(Intergroup Continued on page 5)*

