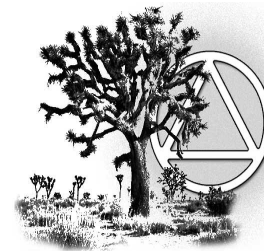


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I Am Responsible

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

Message from the Outgoing Intergroup Chairman

Many of our A.A. “chips” and publications show the three legs of the triangle within the circle with the labels, “recovery, unity, and service.” And we often hear members admonishing the newly sober to “be of service.”

It’s kind of a strange phrase when you think about it. How can you *be of* anything? Well, it’s wording from another era, actually, like some of the other phrases from 1939 that we lovingly preserve in our Big Book. Perhaps we could cause less confusion in our newcomers by suggesting they *get into* service, with the word “get” implying action rather than existence. Or maybe we can just tell them that they should include serving A.A. as a part of their recovery. After all, we are *in* A.A.—not *of* A.A.

I once heard a speaker say that the only acceptable A.A. service is sponsorship . . . carrying the message and helping a new member through the 12 Steps. I understood his point, but there are certainly other ways to serve in A.A. Anything that helps A.A. to carry its message can be considered as service. We don’t wash too many coffee cups or clean too many ashtrays anymore. But meetings still need people to set up, make coffee, and clean up afterward. And of course, they need secretaries. There are many ways to serve your group.

Our Intergroup, located at the Central Office in Apple Valley, needs members to serve, as well. Being the Intergroup Representative from your meeting or group is a good way to be involved and serve both your own group and the larger Intergroup of the A.A. members in the Victor Valley extended area. And the Intergroup Committee is also a way to serve your A.A. community. Chairman, Co-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and leading committees such as the Ways and Means Committee are all excellent chances to learn about the “workings” of A.A. while helping it continue with its Primary Purpose.

As outgoing Chairman, I have had the privilege to be a part of

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Now, What of Prayer

The A.A. program is open to anyone that has a desire to stop drinking. It makes no difference if you are an atheist, agnostic, or a member of a specific religion. All of us have the same opportunity to get well through the steps. They were fashioned that way to ensure that no alcoholic is left out. We embrace everyone that walks through that door. If Step Two had been written to say, “Came to believe that God,” rather than “a Higher Power” could restore me to sanity, I wonder if A.A. would have succeeded in the way that it has; especially when we consider the problems that the Oxford Group had with this issue.

I’ve seen people talking of religion and others that were irritated with any talk of God, yet we still hold hands at the end of the meeting and say a prayer, and everyone leaves the meeting feeling a little better. I personally know priests and ministers in the program, and they seem to adjust to the diversity of the landscape. I wish that it would be simpler for each person, but there are no two people that are identical in this matter.

Speaking for myself, if I wanted to be freed from the deadly obsession of alcoholism, I had to trust the guidance of the two books that are suggested and the leadership of the more experienced members of the group, in order to come to terms with a concept of a power greater than myself. I was the one in the 12 X 12 that “tried religion and found it wanting.” I also read that “even the militant atheist got through the hoop with room to spare.” I didn’t believe in the God of the religionist in the same way, I thought, they did. [But] I didn’t think I was an atheist either. The Power greater than myself option was a good start for me.

Something happened to me within minutes after arriving at my first introduction to three people sitting on a bench in

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many positive things happening in A.A. in our area, and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting members from all around our area—from Lucerne Valley to Wrightwood and from Phelan out to Barstow and Newberry Springs. It has been educational and it has been fun. And, really, it isn't a lot of work. (Shhh, that's a secret!)

Thank you for the opportunity.

Doug H.

Prayer

(Continued from page 1)

the front yard of a little house in Los Angeles. [This is] where they held their meetings. [At that time] the obsession to drink was gone and I haven't had, nor wanted, a drink since then. You might call that a miracle. [You] might be right, depending on your definition of a miracle. [But] it came to me in a profound Change of Perception brought about by the Love, Understanding, and Compassion I sensed as they welcomed me.

These experiences were a great way for me to start, but NOW, WHAT ABOUT PRAYER? Who or what do I pray to? I heard about doorknobs and icons, the ocean, and other such things, but that way of thinking didn't set well with me. I didn't want to be too glib about such an important matter. Then I noticed that, in Step Two, it didn't say that I had to believe *in* anything, only that I had to believe *that* a power greater than myself, could restore me to sanity. The collective wisdom of the A.A. program and the people in it [has] been the framework for my faith in a Higher Power.

The experience I had in that front yard, forty-five years ago, was all I needed to know to get on with the rest of the program. To this day I still don't know for sure who or what God is. [But] I do know what God does. I use the word God only to describe the influence that A.A. has had on this particular drunk. I pray to God as I understand God, and He expresses Himself in my consciousness. The only thing left for me to do is to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Submitted by,

Rick R., Poway, CA

*Gone are the days when girls
used to cook like their mothers.*

*Now they drink like
their fathers.*

Via, the Internet

Intergroup Minutes January 17, 2015

The meeting was opened at 9:33 a.m. by Doug H., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Chad F. read the Twelve Traditions. In attendance were Doug H., Chad F., Betty B., Craig B., Steve W., Helen M., Bill P., Carl O., Ted B., Maria B., and Jim F. Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Chad F. gave the report. As of Dec. 31, 2014, there was a balance of \$14,587.26 in savings, \$7,119.29 in the C.D., and \$6,901.12 in checking. Income for the month was \$2,877.72 with total expenses being \$2,685.92. December income before literature was \$191.80. December literature sales were \$932.45, with purchases being \$0.00. Total literature was \$932.45. The net December [income] was \$1,124.25. In December 14 people contributed \$526.00 to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. The Treasurer's Report was accepted. Doug H. pointed out the importance of P.Y.M.W.U.M.I. and the Faithful Fivers. These two groups contributed \$6,997.95 in 2014 to Central Office. The total 2014 net income was \$6,593.33. So, without the contributions of the two afore mentioned groups, the net income for 2014 would have been a negative <404.62>. Intergroup cannot express enough the importance of these contributions. Let us keep getting the message out to the High Desert A.A. Groups in 2015.

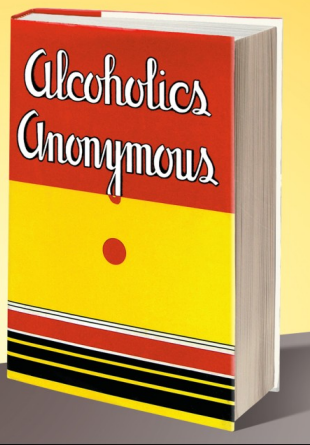
Office Manager's Report: Craig B. reported that there were 91 visitors to the office in December. There were 169 information calls and one 12 Step call. There were 93 call forwarding calls and one 12 Step call. The totals were 262 information calls and two 12 Step calls. There is a possible opening every other Friday night for call forwarding. Please announce at meetings. If someone is interested please have them call Craig B. at the office. All office shifts, at this time, are filled. There were **NO** information calls on New Year's Eve. As of February 1, 2015, the price of A.A. books will be going up. For Big Books this will be a price increase of \$1.60. The books that Craig B. bought in September at the lower price are sold out. Remember, this price increase is due to the price increase by World Services and not Central Office. The Office Manager's report was accepted.

Ways and Means Report: Betty B. gave the report in the absence of Joey R. The New Year's Eve Speaker Meeting/Dance was a success. Income was \$679.63 with expenses being \$375.02. Donations included three 3-foot sandwiches, two 24-packs of soda, a case of water, three party packs of hats and favors, and two urns of coffee. Les P. of the Alano Club donated back the \$150.00 rental fee.

Newsletter Report: Betty B. gave the report. The January Newsletter is being mailed out on January [17]. On the back page of the newsletter will be a message on how to subscribe for a hard copy. Jim F. asked that if Betty electronically sends him this subscription message, he can put it on the

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Just a reminder:
The First Edition
Big Book
Reproduction
is still available at
Central Office.
Once they're gone,
they're gone!



Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is (P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I.)

Two years ago the Victor Valley A.A. Central Office was within a couple of months of shutting down. Like many families in these economic times, our expenses continually exceeded our income. Our prudent reserve was nearly gone, and without a new infusion of income, the office would close and the phones would be shut off. The phone number for A.A. in the phone book would end up like “Dial-A-Prayer” for atheists . . . no one would answer.

There was a solution. It was the revival of an old fundraising campaign called Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. Members who were fond of saying how much they “owed” A.A., were asked to do just that, and pledge \$25.00 or more per month to the Central Office. Much like Public Television pledge drives, the word went out to the groups and meetings, and sober alcoholics responded.

The final Central Office Financial Statement for 2014 is available online and shows the good news. The expenses for the entire year were \$36,583.29. The income was \$39,693.28. This resulted in a net income of \$3,009.99. Yes. We met all of our obligations and were able to put \$3,000 back into reserve.

Now. Looking down the list of sources of income shows that 14 P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. members donated a total of \$6,604. Without their support, the office would have had a \$3,600 shortfall. The conclusion is inescapable. Without individual members contributing to their Intergroup A.A. office, it might well be closed now. Certainly, all the groups donate. But the total donations of all the groups was just over \$16,000—less than half of the total office expenses.

The solution to our problem continues to be dependence on individual members who understand that they owe Alcoholics Anonymous, not just their financial security and

their sobriety, but their very lives. To those who have gone beyond the “buck in the basket” and pledged to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I., you have the thanks and the knowledge that you helped save our Central Office. And if you haven't, please consider it. Then in the foreseeable future, when someone dials 760-242-9292 they will hear, “Alcoholics Anonymous, how can I help you?”

Anonymous

Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

web's newsletter page.

Old Business: The Intergroup elections that have been discussed the last two meetings were held. The people and their positions are as follows: Helen M. – Chairman; Ted B. – Co-Chairman.; Bill P. – Secretary; Carl O. – Associate Member; Doug H. – Public [Information]; Chad F. – Treasurer.

New Business: Betty B. brought to the Intergroup's attention that she had received a letter showing that Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc. had (and possibly for the first time) a 6 month prudent reserve. Betty stressed the point that, although this is good news, [the Fellowship] cannot drop the ball. Prices are going up for literature, printing, paper, etc. We still need to get the message out with regards to contributions, especially regarding P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. Let's keep up the good work we have been doing over the last couple of years.

Steve W. stated that he had a 12 Step call in the last week, and it took him seven calls to find someone to take the call. Craig B. said that there was a need for men and women in Victorville to be on the 12 Step call list, as well as men in Barstow. Also, office volunteers will be going through the 12 Step call list to see if people want their names to be removed from the list.

The next Intergroup Meeting will be February 21, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.

Betty B. motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted B., Secretary

AAisms for 2014

“If you pray to God when you think you don't need Him, He's much more likely to be there when you think you do need Him.” ~Ed L. at Long Beach Alano Club, 17 January 2014

“When your only tool is a hammer, you look at everything as if it were a nail.” ~Otis F. to Phelan Good Morning Group, Phelan, CA on 22 January 2014

“There are only two kinds of people: Those who teach you how to be and those who teach you how not to be.” ~Joseph to Phelan Good Morning Group, Phelan, CA on 23 January 2014

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Upcoming Events

Intergroup meets the third Saturday of each month at Central Office at 9:30 a.m. Please have your Intergroup Reps. plan on attending.

April 10—11, 2015

Ride for Recover, from Barstow to Beatty, NV. More information will be forthcoming.

June 12—14, 2015

The High Desert Sunshine of the Spirit Convention will be held at the Ambassador Hotel in Victorville, CA. This is a new date for the convention so plan on attending and supporting it. More information will be available in the coming months.

And Finally . . .

My wife at her high school reunion kept staring at a drunk swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table. I asked her, “Do you know him?”

“Yes,” she sighed. “He’s my old boyfriend. He began drinking right after we split up years ago, and he hasn’t been sober since.”

“My goodness!” I said. “Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?”

And then the fight started.

Submitted by,
Craig B.,
Apple Valley, CA



AAisms

(Continued from page 3)

“You’re the funniest guy in the room—pregnant pause—named Otis.” ~Anonymous to the Attitude Adjustment Meeting, Quartz Hill, CA on 26 January 2014

“I hear one thing, I repeat that one thing, and then completely do another thing.” ~Ed L. to the Attitude Adjustment Meeting, Quartz Hill, CA on 26 January 2014

“If you pray to God when you think you don’t need Him, He’s much more likely to be there when you think you do need Him.” ~Ed L. at Long Beach Alano Club, 17 January 2014

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“There are only two kinds of people: Those who teach you how to be and those who teach you how not to be.” ~Joseph to Phelan Good Morning Group, Phelan, CA, 23 January 20014

“I hear one thing, I repeat that one thing, and then completely do another.” ~Ed L. to the Attitude Adjustment Meeting in Quartz Hill, CA, 26 January 2014

Submitted by,
Ed L., Wrightwood, CA

A man was walking through a rather seedy section of town, when a bum walked up to him and asked for two dollars. The man asked, “Will you buy booze?” The bum replied, “No.” Then the man asked, “Will you gamble it away?” The bum said, “No.” Then the man asked the bum, “Will you come home with me so my wife can see what happens to a man who doesn’t drink or gamble?”