

NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

FEBRARY 2013

Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.
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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.

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

A Modest Proposal

Central Office is the most vital part of our initial outreach to alcoholics seeking help. It is often their first contact and exposure to Alcoholics Anonymous. When alcoholics dial the phone number for A.A. that is listed in the phone book the phone rings at Central Office and a sober member of A.A. answers—24 hours a day. This is the first connection to our Twelfth Step and our Fifth Tradition of carrying the message. Central Office provides meeting information, Big Books, literature and pamphlets, and most importantly, sober members who continue the basic A.A. function of one drunk talking to another. When an alcoholic reaches out, we are now in danger of meeting him with silence. Alcoholics Anonymous has been described as a “we” program, and our Steps reflect this. However, our mission statement on many walls of A.A. meeting places states, “I am responsible.” It is time for you as individuals to accept this responsibility.

This is not the first time Central Office has had a financial crisis. Twenty years ago a similar situation developed. The solution was a plan they called, “Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is,” or “P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I.” Members are often heard in meetings claiming they owe all of their success and their very lives to A.A. It is time to pay back some of the successes we have achieved through recovery.

We are asking individual members to pledge, \$25.00, \$50.00, or \$100.00 PER MONTH in 2013. All contributions to Central Office are, of course, welcome. But we need the “heavy hitters” here. If only ten people commit to the minimum of \$25.00 per month, Central Office can remain open until the end of the year. If twenty people pledge that amount, we can restore our six month prudent reserve. Our goal is to have 25 people throughout the Victor Valley.

We often claim that we cannot stay sober if we do not “pass it on.” “We can’t keep it if we don’t give it away.” You ARE

responsible. Please put your money where your mouth—and your sobriety—is!

CALL or VISIT CENTRAL OFFICE
TO PLEDGE!

18888 Hwy. 18, Suite 107
Apple Valley, CA 92307
760-242-9292

Someone will answer!

Intergroup Minutes 26 January 2013

The meeting was opened at 9:32 a.m. by Sam D. who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Julie D. read the Twelve Traditions. Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Chad F. gave the report. As of December 31, 2012 there was a balance of \$2,099.12 in savings, \$2,093.48 in the C.D. and \$1,515.87 in cash in Union Checking. Income for the month of December was [\$1,973.26], but Total Expenses were \$2,255.85, leading to a December deficit of -\$282.59. However December Literature sales were \$645.12. Therefore December’s NET INCOME was \$362.53. YTD financials were in the negative. For 2012 financials were -\$3,419.89. The report was approved.

Office Manager’s Report: Craig B. submitted Central Office’s financial books to the bookkeeper. The books were “spot-on” – no errors.

New Business: The new business was to set a Central Office Course-of-Action for 2013: How to Move Forward and Raise Monetary Goals with Time lines. The “bottom line” of a letter sent to Central Office was that Central Office lost approximately \$200/month in 2012. Craig B. suggested that Intergroup representatives could pursue “Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is (PYMWYMI)” at their home groups, asking for committed contributions of \$25, \$50, or \$100/month for 2013. If only 20 individuals responded for \$25/month Central Office would make-up for the \$200/month

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deficit. If more than 20 individuals committed, Central Office could increase its Prudent Reserve. To date seven (7) people have committed monthly contributions for 2013, with a combined total of \$480/month. This is a start. Also some High Desert A.A. Groups are donating only to Central Office and not G.S.O., and one group is contributing on a weekly basis. Since the "word" (financial situation of Central Office) has gotten out more High Desert A.A. Groups have been donating. Sam D. suggested that Intergroup pursue the PYMWYMI drive throughout 2013. Sam also suggested that Intergroup should not forget the Faithful Fivers. Some people cannot commit to \$25-\$100/month but could commit to \$5-\$15/month. All contributions are gratefully accepted.

Other cost-cutting measure Central Office is pursuing include: \$400/year savings by not mailing newsletters. Central Office will continue to print newsletters, but would only mail on demand. The E-mail approach to the newsletter may be the way to go. The Office Manager also said that he is willing, for the time being, to take a \$100/month cut in salary.

Craig B. brought up as to what Central Office's "trigger" should be regarding financial difficulties. It was the concurrence of the Intergroup representatives that if Central Office were to go below 2-month prudent reserve, drastic measures would have to be taken.

Chad F. suggested that Central Office should construct a letter as to the role of the Victor Valley Central Office plays regarding the High Desert A.A. Groups and why its financial solvency is important. Each Intergroup representative would then present this letter [to] their home groups. All of Intergroup representatives present at the 1/26/2013 meeting thought that this was a good idea. Doug H. is going to provide a rough draft of the letter and e-mail it out to the Intergroup representatives for their input. Once the letter is finalized by Central Office the letter will be distributed. Because time is of the essence the letter should be finalized in a matter of days. It was also at this time that Sam D. introduced Bill [P.] as the new Associate Member of the Board of Directors.

Craig B. brought up the Founder's Day Picnic. This is another fundraiser that fell through the cracks in 2012. Intergroup needs to pursue this fundraiser in 2013. Traditionally it is the second week of June. Lucky is on it and several others have vomited to helping out at this time. There is seed money for renting of a park and monies for a portion of the picnic food.

Betty B. digressed into the By-Laws and the Committees that are outlined in the By-Laws. Betty also commented on Central Office's Board of Directors and the need to fill committee and Board of Directors positions. These issues will be discussed at the 2/16/2013 meeting.

Sam D. and Craig B. are committed to get out to all the High Desert A.A. Groups to explain the role of Central Office.



Things We Cannot Change

*Leigh Y., a member of
Alcoholics Anonymous,*

passed away January 25, 2013.

She will be missed.

They want to explain that help from the groups can be in the form of participation (each group having an Intergroup Representative) and having groups buy books from the Apple Valley Central Office and not somewhere else.

Betty motioned that Intergroup meet once a month starting 3/2013. Ted B. seconded the motion. The motion will come up for a vote at the 2/16/2013 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectively Submitted by,

Ted Boss, Secretary

Money and Spirituality

Bill W. wrote: "Though not costly, these agencies are absolutely essential to our continued expansion—to our survival as a Fellowship. Their costs are a collective obligation that rests squarely upon all of us. Our support of services, actually amounts to a recognition on our part that A.A. must everywhere function in full strength – and that, under our Tradition of self-support, we are all going to foot the bill."

*Via, Self-Support: Where Money &
Spirituality Mix pamphlet*

A Note from Your Office Manager

Greetings!

I want to thank all the groups and individuals who contributed to your Central Office in January; 20 groups and meetings! A.A. is definitely a “We” program.

For those considering donating to Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is as outlined in this newsletter, it is a plan that worked well in 1992. It will work again with your help.

The plan when P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. was begun was quite simple. If the Fellowship was truly as grateful as they were saying they were in meetings, the question begged to be asked, “How grateful are you?” The response was overwhelming for a time. Members pledged a certain amount of money each month to Central Office. As the financial situation of the day improved, more and more members forgot to show their gratitude. Thus, here we are again today, 21 years later, in similar circumstances.

So, we have a plan! As outlined on the back cover of the Newsletter there are many ways you can P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. We ask that you, the High Desert Fellowship, step up and get into action.

A convenient way to donate is setting up an electronic transfer each month from your bank account. To do this you will need the routing and account numbers which we will gladly provide. Also, you can call in your credit and debit card numbers to the office. You can mail your contribution to the office, or better yet, stop by the office and have a cup of coffee and see for yourself exactly what we do and what we have to offer the Fellowship and the newcomers.

One more thing—we keep hard copies of all of Central Office’s financial transactions. The books are always open for your inspection in case there are any disputes about donations or purchases. You are also welcome to see exactly how your money is being used. This is only possible during regular business hours (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and only while I am at the office. It would also be helpful if an appointment could be made, but that is not mandatory.

And remember we sell aluminum and bronze chips, tri-plate medallions, book covers, jewelry and many other items. If we don’t have what you are looking for, every effort will be made to order it in as timely a manner as possible; that includes literature, also.

Did you know A.A. members may donate \$3,000 a year to Central Office? Also, an A.A. member may put in their will a \$5,000 donation to Central Office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 760-242-9292. If I happen to be out of the office, ask the volunteer for my home telephone number. In any case, please always leave a message and I will call you as soon as I possibly can.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service to you!

In service,

Craig B., Office Manager

A Leap of Faith?

As you have all read in the minutes and seen in previous newsletters, the financial situation at Central Office is not beneficial for its success to be of service to the Fellowship or to the newcomer. As you can read in the minutes of our special Intergroup Meeting in January, it was discussed that we offer to the Fellowship an email version of the Newsletter for the Fellowship. More and more central offices are now offering this service to their area membership as a means to save money on printing and postage costs—both of which are rising in cost!

If you would be interested in receiving your newsletter via email, **PLEASE** let us know. I believe I have found a program (with the help of Chad F.) that will make this venture possible. All you would need to do is let Central Office know.

You can do this by emailing your email address to: vvigco_aa@yahoo.com. The Office Manager will see that I get it. I will then be able to send your copy to you. It’s that easy—I hope!

We know by our own finances in our homes, meetings and groups, things are tight. So, every little bit will help. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Respectfully,

Betty B., Editor

Central Office Activities

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Visitors	132	132
Info. Calls	201	201
12 Step Calls	1	1
<u>Call Forwarding</u>		
Info. Calls	151	151
12 Step Calls	1	1
<u>Totals</u>		
Info Calls	352	352
12 Step Calls	2	2

Opportunities to be of Service

For several years the Board of Directors and Intergroup have been operating with as few as five participants to as many as ten. That has resulted in very little rotation on the Board, which we know from experience, is not good for Intergroup or the Fellowship.

Now you can become a part of Intergroup and have your meetings' and groups' voices be heard.

The following is a partial list of Service Committee positions that need/should be filled. If you are qualified please feel free to attend our next Intergroup Meeting, February 16, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office, and receive more information than this space allows. We also need the meetings and groups to elect Intergroup Representatives to take information back to Fellowship and to get the input needed so our area can flourish.

1. Group Relations Chairman is responsible for building and maintaining interest in Intergroup functions in the local A.A. community.
2. Cooperation with the Professional Community is responsible for coordinating efforts between Intergroup and Professional Agencies including their personal.
3. Public Information Chairman is responsible for coordinating efforts between the Intergroup, outside agencies, and the public.

Each Chairman appoints their committee members, however, in keeping with Tradition Nine, they will be and are directly responsible to those they serve. These are two years commitments.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting!

Upcoming Events

February 16, 2013

Victor Valley Intergroup Meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Central Office. Call 760-242-9290 for more information. Please plan to attend.

March 8—10, 2013

29th Annual Sunshine of the Spirit A.A. Convention. More information to follow.

April 5—6, 2013

7th Annual Ride for Recovery Death Valley Poker Run. For information contact Jerry B. at 760-985-0014 or Ron M. at 760-559-1070. flyers are also available at Central Office or by visiting www.victorvallyaa.org

And Finally . . .



Submitted, posthumously, by Coker M., formerly of Apple Valley, CA