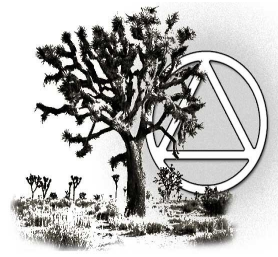


Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.
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Apple Valley, CA 92307
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Web site: www.victorvalleyaa.org



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.

The Times, They are a Changing

One thing I have noticed about us alcoholics is most of us cannot stand change. For me there has always been a fear involved with change. Whether it is a change of format at a meeting, a change in the weather, or a change in the rules, I do not like change. That being said, however, does not mean I always get my way.

For some time now the Board of Directors, the Office Manager, the Intergroup Reps., and myself have been talking about putting the *Newsletter for the Fellowship* on line; meaning we would email the newsletter instead of mailing hard copies every month. This is something that more and more Central Offices are doing as a cost cutting measure. Therefore, the group conscience of Intergroup has decided we would “join the tribe” and begin emailing our newsletters.

It was agreed that in April, 2014, we would not renew our mailing permit. It has been steadily increasing in price each year as has the postage.

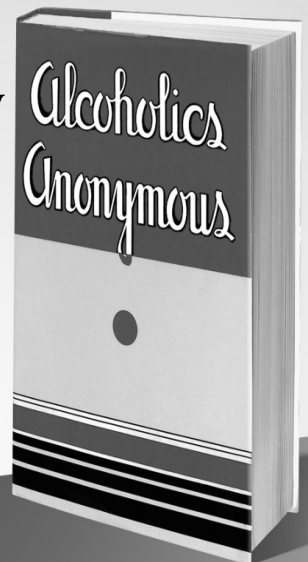
Now, I realize there are some of you who may believe this is a *great* move and others who believe it *stinks*. Either way we knew whatever was decided was not going to be 100% approved.

So what does this mean? Two things: 1. If you would like to receive your newsletter via the Internet, you will have until April 1, 2014, to get your email address on record with the office and myself, so we can begin emailing you your copy. (***We will do nothing else with your email address, and it will be FREE!***) 2. If you want to continue to receive hard copies mailed to you, they will be for a subscription price of \$10.00 per year. Either way, please let your wishes be made known.

At this time I would like to take a moment to editorialize. If you turn to page 2 of this month's newsletter, you will see that the attendance of our last Intergroup Meeting was nine (9) A.A. members. Nine members! And five (5) of those were

(Continued on page 2)

Announcing the 75th Anniversary edition of the Big Book



A.A. World Services, Inc. is pleased to announce the publication of the only authorized reproduction of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. This new edition will be a faithful replica of the original, with the famous “circus cover” dust jacket and bulky paper (which is why it was initially called the Big Book).

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic publication of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 1939, the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of this facsimile edition of the first printing of the first edition.

Preorders: Starting **right now**, you can pre-order your copy at Central Office. They will be ready for pick-up in **April 2014**.

Minutes of the Intergroup Meeting 21 December 13

The meeting was opened at 9:32 a.m. by Doug H., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Helen M. read the Twelve Traditions. In attendance were Doug H., Helen M., Chad F., Betty B., Craig B., Ted B., Richard B., Joey R., and Bill P. Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Chad F. gave the report. As of Nov. 30, 2013, there was a balance of \$8,249.61 in savings, \$7,105.47 in the C.D., and \$6,687.72 in checking. Income for the month of Nov. was \$34,476.06 [I believe that is just a typo! Editor.], with total expenses being \$3,668.80. This came to a negative balance of \$192.74 before literature. November literature sales were \$1,180.16 with purchases being \$176.60. The net Nov. income was \$810.72. In Nov. 18 people contributed \$979.00 to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Webmaster's Report: Jim F. gave the report. [In Nov. 1,200 had visited the site, 745 in the last week], and 183 today (as of 9:30 a.m., 12/21/2013). Since Jim has taken over the webpage there have been 7,276 hits.

Ways and Means Report: Joey R. gave the report. With regards to a horseshoe tournament fundraiser, Joey is looking at more of a series of one-day events with the first event being either on the 16th or 23rd of February, 2014. The events would be all day with donuts and coffee in the morning, possibly a BBQ lunch, and maybe an open participation grouping and a speaker. The events would be at the Alano Club in Apple Valley. Additional information will become available as the date of the first tournament is finalized. Joey has decided that a chili cook-off is just too complicated to be a [fundraiser]. A cake auction, however, is much more viable, and Joey will pursue having an auction. She will report further actions concerning this matter at the January, 2014 [meeting].

Office Manager's Report: Craig B. reported that there were 81 visitors to Central Office in November. There were 139 information call and one 12 Step call. There were 130 call forwarding calls and one 12 Step call. The totals [were 269 information calls] and two 12 Step calls. After having talked with several other Central Offices, Craig has decided to take pre-orders for the *Anniversary Edition* of the Big Book. People can call Central Office during business hours (9—4 Monday – Friday) to pre-order the number of copies they would like and how they would like to pay for them (now or later). Craig did not transfer \$3,500.00 into the C.D. in November because [there will be some expenses coming up]. There is a volunteer opening for call-forwarding every other Friday night. If interested, please call Craig. Bob Darden (Silver Lakes) is the Victor Valley oldtimer of record. On January 21, 2014, Bob will have an A.A. birthday of 55 years.

Old Business: None

New Business: Richard B. wanted it confirmed that the last month that the A.A. newsletter will be mailed to non-subscribers is April, 2014. The reason being is that Richard needs to mail out the High Desert A.A. Convention flyers. The convention will be held March 7—9, 2014. Craig said that, by all means, take advantage of the pre-postage. Ted B. brought up the question of monthly meetings in 2014. Intergroup members will take this question back to their home groups, and Intergroup will vote concerning monthly meeting at the January 18, 2014 meeting.

The next Intergroup meeting will be January 18, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.

Craig B. motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted B., Secretary

Newsletter

(Continued from page 1)

members of the Board, and three were committee chairmen. This is hardly a fair representation of our High Desert Fellowship, but this is how it has been for more years than I can count. And, no, it is not “fair” that these nine members get to make decisions – such as the newsletter – for the entire Fellowship. But, this is what happens when only a few show up. So, please, if your group/meeting does not have and Intergroup Rep. (which it so obviously does not), please get one! It is really quite simple. All you need to do is appoint/elect a Representative, and have them attend the Intergroup meetings. They must attend two consecutive meetings to have a vote. After the meetings have them give a report. If there are any decisions that are up for a vote, they will bring your vote to the meeting and vote accordingly as per your group conscience. See? There is nothing hard about it at all. It would be so nice to arrive at Central Office on any given third Saturday of the month and not have room for everyone who wants to be there.

I have rambled enough, wouldn't you say? So, again, I thank you for allowing me to be of service. Believe it or not, it has truly kept me humble.

In sobriety,

Betty B., Editor

Singleness of Purpose Keeps Us Focused

Several years ago I attended a meeting of A.A. in a city several miles away from home. The speaker that evening was obviously both alcoholic and addict.

His total focus was on his drug addiction, and this went on for quite a long while. About 35—40 minutes into his talk, my friends and I decided to walk out of the meeting, and so we did.

Our actions did not go unnoticed, as we were sitting in the rear of the room. I really didn't get a good feeling as to what we were doing, but I just didn't want to hear any more of the talk. We couldn't relate. We were not hearing any experience, strength, and hope in regards to alcoholism.

Several months, or maybe even a year later, another member and I were in a nearby town doing a workshop and this member I speak of was in attendance.

After the workshop, he approached us individually and thanked us for leaving the meeting he was speaking at months earlier. He said at first he felt we were being pretty rude but realized later how inappropriate his talk was.

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(Continued from page 2)

He also told us he had made a couple of talks since, with no mention of drugs, and the talks were well received. I was so impressed with this man that I invited him to my home group to speak. This man became one of the best members of our fellowship that you would ever want to meet.

So, this example is concrete evidence that it is possible for a member who is both alcoholic and addict to speak at A.A. meetings and stay focused on our singleness of purpose.

Via, *The DIALog*, Dallas Central Office, Dallas, Texas

A.A.isms from 2013

(Editor's note: The following has been submitted by one of our local, published A.A. members, Ed L. from Wrightwood. There were too many to use in one edition, so I will be using them throughout the coming months. Enjoy!)

The following A.A.isms were recorded during some 350 meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous in 2013, from Virginia to California. I know of no other place where so many witticisms and words of sober wisdom have been uttered. Most of them were passed on from sober drunks to other sober drunks for the benefit of keeping drunks sober. If laughter is the best medicine, I intend to practice medicine without a license. Where possible I have acknowledged the anonymous drunk who first spoke the words and given the hallowed halls (rooms) in which the statement was heard. Since we're all a bunch of plagiarists, I can't credit anything said to the actual author but only to the person I first heard say it. I've usually transcribed these expressions some time after hearing them, so all are prone to losing something in the translation.

"Piss and vinegar may be a young man's tonic but they're an old man's poison." ~Ed L. in field during a survey in Yucca Valley, CA on 4 January 2013

"Constraint of tongue and pen are child's play compared to constraint of brain." ~Ed L. in field during a survey in Yucca Valley, CA on 4 January 2013.

"Patience is inversely proportional to my self-centeredness." ~Colin to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 14 January 2013

"Self-righteousness generally leads to impatience." ~Ed L. to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua Tree, CA on 14 January 2013.

"*This too shall pass* ain't so good when it's a kidney stone." ~Tom to Joshua Tree Fellowship Hall in Joshua

Tree, CA on 21 January 2013

"Because alcoholics may not obviously be doing anything, we have to obviously do everything." ~Ed L. in notebook on 21 January 2013

"Primarily, sobriety is about right living. Only secondarily is it a solution." ~Ed L. at Phelan Good Morning Group in Phelan, CA on 25 January 2013

PRAASA Prayer: "Lord, open my heart that I might meet people you have for me and hear the things you say to me through them." ~Ed L. in notebook at PRAASA in Boise, ID on 1 March 2013

"On the Friday morning of PRAASA (Pacific Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly) when the leader randomly called on a lady to share at the A.A. meeting, she exclaimed while pointing at her husband: ;I'm in Al-Anon, but **he** will be happy to share!'" ~Ed L. in Boise, ID on 1 March 2013

"If I waited until all my motives were pure, I wouldn't do anything." ~Jeff during meeting at PRAASA in Boise, ID on 1 March 2013

"There's surely love at the group level, but please don't mess it at the District and Area levels." ~Ed L. in notebook at PRAASA in Boise, ID on 1 March 2013

"God sends the willing, not the qualified." ~Mark during meeting at PRAASA in Boise, ID on 1 March 2013

Anonymous quotes heard during PRAASA in Boise, ID on March 1—3, 2013:

"Practice other-centeredness rather than self-centeredness."

"I'm putting another log on my A.A. fire."

"To quote the shortest sentence in the Big Book:

"Nonsense." ~Bruce, Alaska

"There are three phases in life: Learn, Earn, and Return." ~Don, Fontana, CA

"I'd rather include someone that doesn't belong here than to exclude someone that does belong here." ~Ruth J., Past Trustee, during her banquet speech at PRAASA

"I'm here to share on advice of people who care more about my growth than my feelings."

"You can't dance with *everybody*, but you must dance with *somebody*." ~Dave W. to Phelan Good Morning Group in Phelan, CA on 5 March 2013

"Getting all our ducks in a row now will help later when we have to herd cats." ~Ed L. in notebook on 5 March 2013

Submitted by,
Ed L., Wrightwood, CA

Central Office Activities

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Visitors	68	967
Info. Calls	145	1,831
12 Step Calls	0	14

Call Forwarding

Info. Calls	136	1,227
12 Step Calls	3	32

Totals

Info Calls	281	1,930
12 Step Calls	3	49

Upcoming Events

Third Saturday of the Month

**Intergroup Meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.
Call 760-242-9292 for more information.**

March 7—9, 2014

The 30th Annual Sunshine of the Spirit Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will take place at the Ambassador Hotel in Victorville, CA. Flyers are available at Central Office.

April 4—5, 2014

The Death Valley Ride for Recovery and Poker Run. There will be more information coming in the future.

April 18—20, 2014

11th Annual Spanish Congress in Barstow, CA at the Cora Harper Fitness Center. There will be English participation. Rooms are available at the Ramada Inn, Barstow with special rates. For more information contact Martha or Mary G. at 760-985-7815.

I remember hearing an oldtimer telling someone who was fretting about another's return to drinking: "Some of us stay here, and some of us ride that garbage truck all the way to the dump. There's nothing we can do about that choice in someone else."

<<<< >>>>

Newcomer: "I tried A.A. It doesn't work for me!"

Oldtimer: "really? Hmmm, that's interesting. Did you ever go into a bar, take one drink and not get drunk and say, 'Well, that obviously isn't going to work. I might as well go home and pay some bills.' Or did you keep trying?"

Via, *the Desert Lifeline*, Cathedral City, CA

Central Office News

Announcing a New Book from Grapevine

***One On One* AA Sponsorship in Action**

From the early days of the A.A. program, the special one-on-one bond of sponsorship has been vital to getting sober, staying connected and living a full, happy life.

Available now at your Central Office!

More of December's Finances

Newsletter		In Memory of:	
Lois F.	10.00	Bill F.	
Will L.	25.00	by Lois F.	100.00
		Ruby Conway	
		by Anonymous	20.00

And Finally . . .

If you drink too much alcohol you are an alcoholic. If you drink too much Fanta, does that make you Fantastic?

<<<< >>>>

Why is it called Alcoholics Anonymous when the first thing you do is stand up and say, "My name is Tom and I'm an alcoholic?"

<<<< >>>>

What do Russians get when mixing Holy Water with Vodka? The Holy Spirit!

<<<< >>>>

Why did Mexicans create tequila? So ugly people would have a chance at having sex!

Via, jokes4us.com