

# NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

JUNE 2016

Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.  
18888 Highway 18, Suite 107  
Apple Valley, CA 92307  
Telephone: 760-242-9292  
Email: [newsletterforthefellowship@yahoo.com](mailto:newsletterforthefellowship@yahoo.com)  
Website: <http://www.victorvalleyaa.org/>



---

“So Step Six—“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character”—is A.A.'s way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job. This does not mean that we expect all our character defects to be lifted out of us as the drive to drink was. A few of them may be, but with most of them we shall have to be content with patient improvement. The key words “entirely ready” underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know or can learn.”

*The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, page 65.*

---

## Step Six

*“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.”*

Our Twelve and Twelve book tells us that a well-loved clergyman and a great friend of A.A. says, “This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” He adds that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults...has indeed come a long way spiritually.

This was not an easy step for me. My experience with god, before A.A., had not been a good or comfortable one. It had been one of fear and shame. Through A.A. and the amazing way this program works, I was able to approach God as “I” understood Him. I didn’t know it then but this method, of not having anyone else tell me what God is or what He can be and do for me, allowed me to move into a place where, today, I now have a relationship with Him that is helping me live a much more functional life.

I believe it is because the program of Alcoholics Anonymous does not preach or proselytize their interpretation of God that I was afforded an opportunity to discover a way to Him. Yes, I too started out first accepted that a “door knob” or even “the group” could be my Higher Power. What harm could that do? This was a very non-threatening way to open the door and it allowed me to at least consider the idea. But, as I moved through the steps, sat and listened to others share their stories and struggles, I began to see that

God had indeed been a huge benefit in these people’s lives.

God opened my eyes to see so much more than I could ever have seen on my own. It was with God’s help that I was able to understand that my will power was not going to work on alcohol. That there was no other person that could provide me with a magic formula that would help either. It wasn’t until I was able to clean house and became willing to begin a relationship with God that I was able to deal with the problems I had created with alcohol.

It was this relationship with God that removed my obsession to drink. It is gone. That, truly, is a miracle. “having been granted a perfect release from alcoholism, why shouldn’t we be able to achieve by the same means a perfect release from every other difficulty or defect?” Thus begins, what for me, is a long path to remove all my other defects of character. As I have heard Chuck C say, he loved discovering thing he had been wrong about because it was another thing he could get rid of.

For me, there is a large humility to this step. I had to admit that I was not the be all and end all of all my problems. In fact, it was just the opposite. I was a large contributing factor in the cause of them. A friend of mine, Chris, likes to say, “What is the one common factor in all my problems? I was there!” My ego had to be checked. I was no longer able to delude myself into believing that I was completely in charge.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

When I was drinking it was easy to believe this. It's not so easy when I'm not. Once alcohol was removed and I did not have a relationship with a Higher Power I was in a very dangerous place. For me, this was one of the most perilous times of my life. I no longer had the crutch of alcohol to "get me through" my day. I thus began to consider this Higher Power idea. I tried it. And, it began to work.

The 12 and 12 tells us there is only one step that needs to be practiced to absolute perfection. That is Step One, that we are powerless over alcohol.

For me, all the other eleven steps are a lifelong process. Even today, writing this, I did not really want to do it. I felt as if God was speaking to me and said, "You really need to do this today." I did. I was amazed as I was writing how easy it was.

*Submitted by Scott J.*

---

## **Yuk! Honesty!**

Deb. W., *The Turning Point*

*Reprinted from the Akron InterGroup News, January 2016*

Honesty is hard! The most natural thing for me, as an alkie, is to lie. When I was out there rippin' and roarin', I lied constantly. I'd tell a lie just to stay in shape in case I had to tell the "big one!" Lying wasn't so much an necessity for me as it was an activity. I liked to lie because it gave me a sense of doing something dangerous. If I got caught there would be unpleasant consequences. There were plenty of those because I wasn't a very good liar. Looking back, I told some outrageous and downright stupid lies, mostly when I wrecked my car.

I've been thinking a lot about honesty lately. I was recently accused of lying by another AA member. It shocked me! I'm not a liar today. Besides I had 13 witnesses to testify that I was not lying (I was at a Board meeting). This member told someone she was texting that I was lying about being at the meeting and she accidentally sent the text to me. Boy was I hot. I think I was so mad because I really do work hard at honesty. Unfortunately, I have not seen my accuser since I texted her back and told her I was not lying and not to tell other people that I lie. I pray she is still sober.

I started to be honest when I encountered Step One. I had to get honest about my life being unmanageable. I was easily convinced that I was an alcoholic because alcohol had "beat me into reasonableness", as it says in our Big Book. But admitting that my life was unmanageable took a great act of courage and a great deal of honesty. I had hidden this fact from myself and fooled myself for many years.

I've gotten more and more honest during my years of sobriety. As they say, the road gets more and more narrow as we trudge through life. When told that my sobriety is, in part, contingent upon my practice of honesty, I have no trouble being honest. I refuse to do anything that may threaten my sobriety, with God's help. I strive to be more and more honest with myself every day. There is no question in my mind that I must be honest with others, but lying to myself is an art I have perfected. I suppose that is why I have a sponsor; she calls me on my self-deception.

It is my belief that justification and rationalization is another form of lying to myself so I work to rid myself of these self destructive habits.

There is always work to do on myself—it's a lifelong process. Honesty is the starting point for me.

---



---

## **Notice to the Fellowship**

There will be no meetings at the Church of The Valley (AV-2) in Apple Valley from Monday, June 20th, to July 3rd

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF MAY 31, 2016

Savings	\$ (2,565.26)	\$ 17,524.07
C.D.	\$ 2,866.43	\$ 10,000.00
Cash in Union Checking		\$ 6,377.09

INCOME	MAY	Y.T.D.
Group Donations	\$ 920.24	\$ 5,811.12
Birthdays	\$ 70.00	\$ 145.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 23.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 342.00	\$ 2,673.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 497.74	\$ 3,332.30
Coffee Kitty	\$ 12.00	\$ 119.10
Buck of the Month	\$ 5.80	\$ 27.20
Ride for Recovery	\$ -	\$ 4,639.50
AA Mountain Conference	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Faithful Fivers	\$ -	\$ 20.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 17.00	\$ 94.00
INCOME FOR THE MONTH	\$ 1,864.78	\$ 17,194.22

EXPENSES		Y.T.D.
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 1,800.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 130.17	\$ 642.84
Utilities	\$ 59.06	\$ 362.37
Manager Salary	\$ 1,027.28	\$ 5,136.40
Charter	\$ 109.72	\$ 451.52
Printing	\$ 50.22	\$ 301.84
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 65.00	\$ 1,187.56
Chips and Medallions	\$ 377.30	\$ 1,795.44
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ -	\$ 233.37
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 882.00
Atty. Gen. of California	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Franchise Tax Board	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ -	\$ 2,162.58
Freedom Financial (tax prep)	\$ -	\$ 155.00
Credit Card Fee	\$ 32.15	\$ 141.63
Alarm	\$ -	\$ 96.00
Ride For Recovery	\$ 150.00	\$ 635.00
Stamps	\$ -	\$ 196.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,360.90</b>	<b>\$ 16,214.55</b>

INCOME BEFORE LITERATURE	\$ (496.12)	\$ 979.67
LITERATURE		
Sales	\$ 610.86	\$ 5,567.32
Purchases	\$ 672.00	\$ 3,334.20
Total Literature	\$ (61.14)	\$ 2,233.12

NET INCOME	\$ (557.26)	\$ 3,212.79
------------	-------------	-------------

APPLE VALLEY		
Anonymous Group	\$ 77.74	\$ 737.48
Keep it Simple	\$ -	\$ 121.00
Sunday Coffee Kitty	\$ -	\$ 42.00
There is a Solution	\$ -	\$ 222.00

Mon. 5 p.m. Open Participation	\$ -	\$ 45.00
Wed. Womens Participation	\$ 20.00	\$ 110.00
How It Works	\$ 64.00	\$ 289.00
Simple Changes	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 67.04	\$ 325.07
Questions & Answers	\$ -	\$ 30.00
Front & Center	\$ 97.46	\$ 520.65
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 50.00	\$ 250.00
T.G.I.F.	\$ -	\$ 55.82
Friday Nite Lites	\$ 80.00	\$ 130.00
Monday Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 105.00
Cedar Street Big Book	\$ -	\$ 40.00
Original Big Book	\$ -	\$ 54.15
Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk.	\$ -	\$ 102.00
Primary Purpose	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00

### Barstow

Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$ 84.00	\$ 284.00
Friday Nite Live	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00

### Ft. Irwin

New Horizons II	\$ -	\$ 22.95
-----------------	------	----------

### HESPERIA

Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 900.00
----------------	------	-----------

### LUCERNE VALLEY

The Place	\$ -	\$ 20.00
-----------	------	----------

### Newberry Springs

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

### Phelan

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

### Silver Lakes

No Valid Complaints	\$ -	\$ 80.00
---------------------	------	----------

### VICTORVILLE

Friday Speaker Meeting	\$ -	\$ 80.00
Little House	\$ 20.00	\$ 40.00
As Bill sees it	\$ -	\$ 160.00
Tumbleweed Group	\$ -	\$ 10.00

### Wrightwood

Wed. Mens Stag	\$ -	\$ 60.00
9a.m. Open Participation	\$ -	\$ 60.00

### Buck of the Month

Harold	\$ 3.80
Barb B	\$ 2.00

### Happy Birthday To:

Sara L	42
Bill P	28

## Intergroup Minutes June 18th, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Helen M., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Betty B. read the 12 Traditions of A.A. Introductions were made. Present were: Helen M., Betty B., Patrick, Craig B., Ted, Matthew F., Randy W. 12 Traditions were read by Betty B. Minutes of last meeting were read by Betty B.

Correction made to Old Business section of last Newsletter. "116 groups in the Victor Valley area" changed to "216 groups."

**Office Manager's Report:** Craig B. delivered the Office Manager's Report for April. Central Office had 84 visitors, 131 information calls, 0 12-step calls. Call-forwarding 108 information calls and 3 12-step calls. Totals were 239 information and 3 12 step calls.

Craig B. reported that "Little House" in Victorville will be closed until further notice. Also, that meetings at "Church of the Valley" in Apple Valley will be cancelled from June 20 - July 1st.

**District 19 Report:** Randy W. reported that Alternate Delegate Jesus O. shared about safety in A.A. meetings. Each group is responsible for policing their own meetings when problems arise. This means to call the local police or sheriff's department if necessary. It was stated that there have been many issues with A.A. predator's, thieves, and teenagers attending meetings. It is suggested that all groups have an accessible Big Book Dictionary in their group. Dealing with predators in A.A. and procedures with dealing with them was discussed.

**H&I Report:** Patrick reported that the Chili Cook-Off & Roundup" will be at Victor Valley Alano Club in Apple Valley CA September 24th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. This year there will be a "Horseless Rodeo." Also, "Celebration of Love" will be October 8th & 9th at The Senior Center behind the library in Lucerne CA. From 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. breakfast will be served

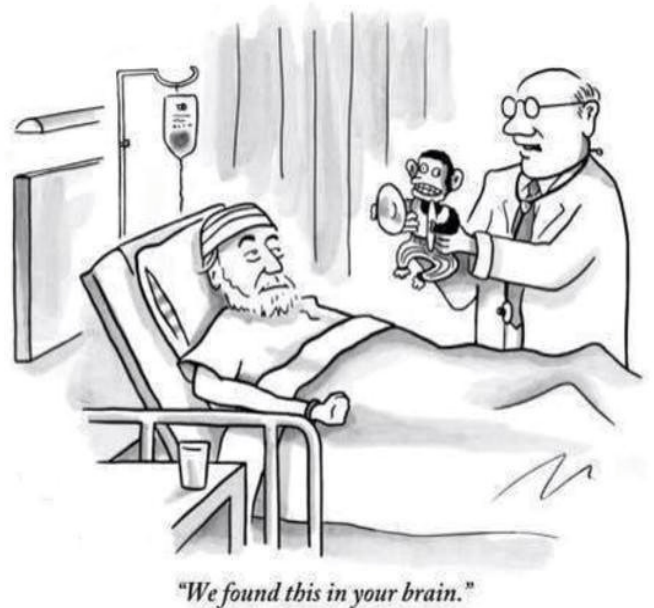
**Old Business:** Craig B. has approached someone to be our new Ways & Means person.

CENTRAL OFFICE STATISTICS		
	May	Y.T.D.
Visitors	84	506
Information Calls	131	804
12-Step Calls	0	5
<b>CALL FORWARDNG</b>		
Information Calls	108	552
12 Step Calls	3	13
<b>TOTALS</b>		
Information Calls	239	1356
12 Step Calls	3	18

Having the Founders Day picnic again was mentioned.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carl O.



Reprinted from *The New Yorker*, cartoon by Bob Eckstein

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