

# NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

MAR 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/>



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## Surrender and Win

We **SURRENDER TO WIN**. On the face of it, surrendering certainly does not seem like winning. But it is in A.A. Only after we have come to the end of our rope, hit a stone wall in some aspect of our lives beyond which we can go no further; only when we hit "bottom" in despair and surrender, can we accomplish sobriety which we could never accomplish before. **We must, and we do, surrender in order to win.**

*Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, 2nd Edition.*

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## The Third Tradition

*"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."*

The third tradition sounds simple, but its inclusion in the 12 traditions was born out of difficult experiences by the A.A. founders. In the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* (12x12), the history of the third tradition is explained, with the authors describing how hard it was in the beginning of A.A. to establish principles for membership. Indeed, "...most of those who did join were like flickering candles in a wind storm...their uncertain flames blew out and couldn't be right lighted." (12x12, pg. 139) The 12x12 recounts the stories of those who were present during the time when the rules for membership were being established. Members recall this to be a delicate time for A.A., where "Everybody was scared witless that something or somebody would capsize the boat and dump us all back into the drink." (12x12 pg. 140). At this time, each A.A. group seemed to have their own rules for membership, with no real uniformity across all groups. Recognizing this, the Foundation office asked groups to send in lists of their "protective regulations." The lists that came in were daunting, and, if all such rules were in effect, it would be difficult for any-

one to join or maintain membership. Still, there were a number of members who felt A.A. should only cater to "pure alcoholics," and individuals with other "complications," were not to be included. One member in the 12x12 recounts: "So beggars, tramps, asylum inmates, prisoners, queers, plain crackpots, and fallen women were definitely out. Yes sir, we'd cater only to pure and respectable alcoholics!" (12x12, pg. 140.) Nevertheless, over time and through tough experiences, many members found "...these sometimes frightening people were to make astonishing recoveries and become our greatest workers and intimate friends." (12x12, page 140.) As such, A.A. eventually dropped all membership regulations and rules.

It was left to each newcomer to decide if he or she was an alcoholic. They would neither punish nor deprive any A.A. of membership. A.A. vowed that they would, "...never compel anyone to pay anything, believe anything, or confirm to anything." "Who dared to be judge, jury and executioner of his own sick brother?" Slowly, each group saw the possibilities and got rid of all membership rules.

For more complete stories of the origin of the third tradition, find a copy of the 12x12.

*Submitted by Scott J.*

# POSITIVELY NEGATIVE

We drank for happiness and became unhappy  
We drank for joy and became miserable  
We drank for sociability and became argumentative  
We drank for sophistication and became obnoxious  
We drank for friendship and made enemies  
We drank for sleep and awakened without rest  
We drank for strength and felt weak  
We drank "medicinally" and acquired health problems  
We drank for relaxation and got the shakes  
We drank for bravery and became afraid  
We drank for confidence and became doubtful  
We drank to make conversation easier  
and slurred our speech  
We drank to feel heavenly and  
ended up feeling like hell  
We drank to forget and were forever haunted  
We drank for freedom and became slaves  
We drank to erase problems and saw them multiply  
We drank to cope with life and invited death.

*Unknown Author*

**April 23rd, 2016**

5 pm to 10 pm

12th Annual Women's AA Banquet

The Holiday Inn, Victorville, CA.

Speaker: Trish O.

For Registration, please call:

Linda K. (760) 269-6748 or

Leslie A. (570) 460-6179



*Things We  
Cannot Change*

Tommy "Joe" Paris of  
Hesperia has passed away.

*He will be missed.*

## Upcoming Events

**April 3rd, 2016**

3:30 – to 6:00 pm

Picnic & Speaker's Meeting in Yermo

Norman Smith Park

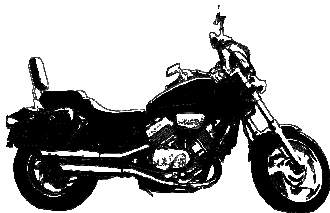
(McCormick and Yermo Rd.)

Pot Luck/BBQ: 3:30 to 4:30 pm

Speaker Meeting: 4:30 to 6:00 pm

For Info, Call "Yermo Larry"

760-217-1963



**April 8 and 9th, 2016**

10th Annual Poker Run

Ride for Recovery, Death Valley

(All vehicles are welcome)

## HELP WANTED

Your Central Office has the following days/  
opportunities open for YOU to be of service

### Office Shifts

Alternates Needed

### Call Forwarding

Thursday (Every other week) 4pm to 9 am

Friday (Every other week) 4pm to 9am

**12 Step List**—All cities, men and women

A.A. members willing to talk with newcomers on the  
phone to give information about A.A.,  
carry the message, etc.

For more information, call Craig B. at your Central  
Office: 760-242-9292

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF FEBRUARY 29th, 2016**

	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
Savings	\$ 450.00	\$ 20,888.87
C.D.	\$ 0.91	\$ 7,131.81
Cash in Union Checking		\$ 3,670.87

<b>INCOME</b>	February	Y.T.D.
Group Donations	\$ 999.09	\$ 2,431.77
Birthdays	\$ 57.00	\$ 75.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 23.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 366.00	\$ 697.00
Newsletter	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 395.36	\$ 1,291.46
Coffee Kitty	\$ 32.85	\$ 55.35
Ride for Recovery	\$ 1,107.00	\$ 1,107.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 20.00	\$ 37.00
<b>INCOME FOR THE MONTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,987.30</b>	<b>\$ 5,727.58</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>		Y.T.D.
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 720.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 119.64	\$ 264.09
Utilities	\$ 80.69	\$ 169.76
Manager Salary	\$ 1,027.28	\$ 2,054.56
Charter	\$ 77.25	\$ 152.67
Printing	\$ 60.00	\$ 101.50
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 477.61	\$ 745.13
Chips and Medallions	\$ 726.95	\$ 1,084.30
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ -	\$ 67.65
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 465.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ -	\$ 1,081.28
Credit Card Fee	\$ 24.84	\$ 49.60
Ride For Recovery	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00
Stamps	\$ 49.00	\$ 98.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,278.26</b>	<b>\$ 7,328.54</b>

<b>INCOME BEFORE LITERATURE</b>	<b>\$ (290.96)</b>	<b>\$ (1,600.96)</b>
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<b>LITERATURE</b>		
Sales	\$ 869.60	\$ 1,995.85
Purchases	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Literature</b>	<b>\$ 869.60</b>	<b>\$ 1,995.85</b>

<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 578.64</b>	<b>\$ 394.89</b>
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<b>APPLE VALLEY</b>		
Anonymous Group	\$ 153.74	\$ 319.74
Keep it Simple	\$ -	\$ 121.00

Sunday Coffee Kitty	\$ -	\$ 42.00
There is a Solution	\$ -	\$ 120.00
Mon. 5 p.m. Open Participation	\$ -	\$ 45.00
Wed. Women's Participation	\$ -	\$ 90.00
How It Works	\$ 38.00	\$ 94.00
Simple Changes	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 95.18	\$ 155.18
Questions & Answers	\$ -	\$ 30.00
Front & Center	\$ 118.40	\$ 236.08
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
T.G.I.F.	\$ 55.82	\$ 55.82
Friday Nite Lites	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Monday Back to Basics	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00

<b>Barstow</b>		
Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00

<b>Ft. Irwin</b>		
New Horizons II	\$ 22.95	\$ 22.95

<b>HESPERIA</b>		
Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 450.00

<b>LUCERNE VALLEY</b>		
The Place	\$ -	\$ 20.00

<b>Newberry Springs</b>		
Thurs. Big Book Study	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00

<b>Phelan</b>		
Thurs. Big Book	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00

<b>VICTORVILLE</b>		
Friday Speaker Meeting	\$ -	\$ 40.00
Tumbleweed Group	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00

<b>Wrightwood</b>		
Wed. Mens Stag	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00

<b>Happy Birthday To:</b>		
Bob D	\$ 57.00	

# Intergroup Minutes

## March 19th, 2016

Congratulations to Carl O. Three Year's Sobriety!

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Helen M., who led us in the Serenity Prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

12 Traditions were read by Chad F. Present were: Helen M., Bill P., Chad F., Patrick C., Carl O., Ted, Craig B., Scott J., and Julia W.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill P., Secretary

**Treasurer's Report:** Chad F. gave the Treasurer's report as of 2/29/16, which showed we had: \$20,888.87 in savings, \$7,131.81 in C.D., and \$3,670.87 in Checking. We had a total income of \$2,987.30. Expenses were total of \$3,278.25. Income before literature was \$290.96 with a net income of \$578.04.

CO STATISTICS	February	Y.T.D.
Visitors	104	210
Information Calls	153	321
12-Step Calls	1	2
<b>CALL FORWARDNG</b>		
Information Calls	94	225
12 Step Calls	4	6
<b>TOTALS</b>		
Information Calls	247	546
12 Step Calls	5	8

**Office Manager's Report:** Craig B. delivered the Office Manager's Report for February. Central Office had 153 information calls, 1 12-step calls. Call-forwarding 94 information calls and 4 12-step calls. Totals were 247 information and 5 12 step calls.

### Meeting Directory

changes/corrections/add/delete

**H&I Report:** Patrick C. reported there was no H&I meeting in February and the next meeting would be held on March 21st, 2016. H&I needs more representative to attend H&I meetings to take information to groups.

#### Corrections

Mon. "Primary Purpose" (B-1) - Barstow starts at 6PM not 7PM

#### Delete

Mon. Big Book Adelanto (AD)  
Sat. Big Book Study (LV) Lucerne Valley

**Old Business:** None.

#### Add

**New Business:** Craig B. stated we have two positions open for "call forwarding," one for every other Thursday and one for every other Friday. Please call Craig B. at the Central Office if interested, 760-242-9292.

Wed. Victorville, 4PM Big Book Study,  
13240 El Evado R. (Holy Innocents Catholic Church)

Craig B. mentioned that all checks for Central Office should be made out to Victor Valley Intergroup, NOT to Central Office.

If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, send your email address to:  
[newsletterforthefellowship@yahoo.com](mailto:newsletterforthefellowship@yahoo.com)