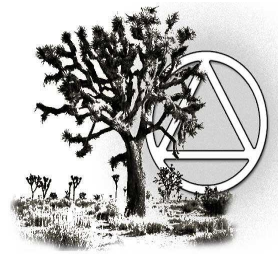


NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

MARCH 2013

Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.
18888 Highway 18, Suite 107
Apple Valley, CA 92307
Telephone: 760-242-9292; Email: vvigco_aa@yahoo.com;
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.

UPDATE

PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS

Last month, the Central Office initiated the Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is pledge drive to keep from having to close. The response has averted a crisis.

To date, 28 members have pledged a monthly contribution to keep the office open. Similar to treating a trauma patient in an Emergency Room, quick response has stopped the hemorrhaging. The patient has been upgraded from “critical” to “guarded.” However, transfusions in the form of monthly contributions will need to continue to restore our organized Twelfth Step to full health.

Many thanks to those who have pledged and donated; but half-measures will only delay the recovery. Call the office at 760-242-9292 for details on how to donate by check, credit card, or even automatic bank transfer. The phones are still working, and sober members are still answering every call.

Central office is not **ON** life support. Central Office **IS** life support.

Intergroup Minutes 16 February 2013

The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. by Sam D. who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Joey R. read the Twelve Traditions.

In attendance were: Sam D., Joey R., Chad F., Craig B., Bill P., Helen M., Doug H., Mike L., and Ted B. Ted B. read the minutes of the precious meeting. After a minor correction the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Chad F. gave the report. As of January 31, 2013 there was a balance of \$2,249.19 in savings, \$2,093.48 in the C.D., and \$3,574.68 in Union checking. Income for the month of January was \$5,015.93, with total expenses being \$4,064.61. This came to a positive balance of \$951.32 before literature sales. January literature sales were \$1,402.78. Net Income (income + literature sales) was \$2,354.10. As of February 15 there is \$3,916.17 in Union checking, \$2,094.01 in the C.D., and \$2,249.19 in savings. Joey R. motioned that the Treasurer's report be approved. It was seconded and the report was approved. In addendum to the Treasurer's Report Craig B. noted that 28 High Desert A.A. Groups donated to Central Office in January. Also that 18 people had contributed \$601.00 in January through [P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I.], and so far in February, 14 people have contributed \$790.00. Craig also mentioned that when contributing to Central Office, people should specify their contributions. P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. contributions are anonymous.

Office Manager's Report: Craig B. stated that there is a need to buy more literature. He is going “down the hill” to buy more, especially Big Books. However, until Central Office meets its financial goals for 2013 some books will not be available through Central Office. Although people have made donation in January,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

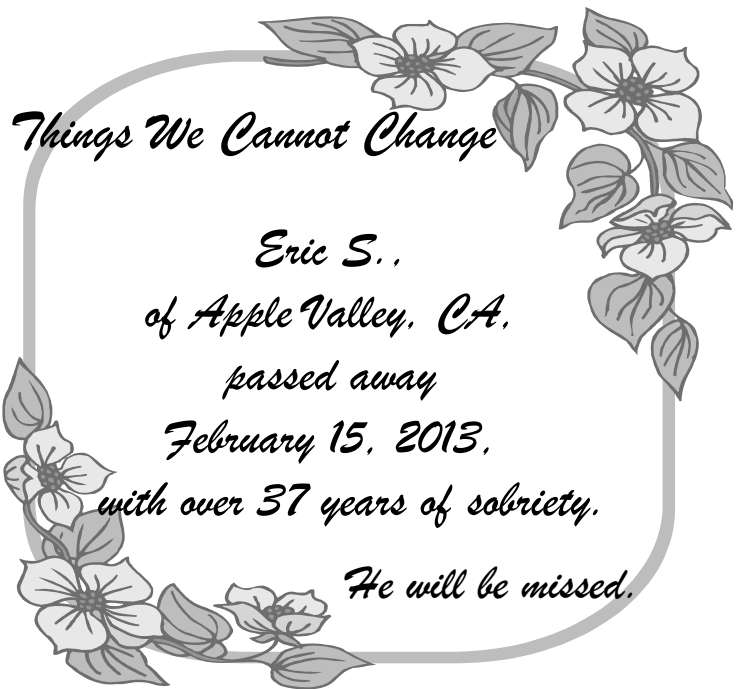
it is not a “done deal” that these people will continue to contribute on a monthly basis through 2013. Central Office must continue to its P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. drive. With regard to the Founder’s Day Picnic, Central Office cannot let the picnic fall through the cracks this year like it did in 2012. Joey R. volunteered to pursue locking in a park for June 8.

New Business Craig B. asked for a vote that Intergroup begin to meet on a monthly basis starting on the third Saturday in March. Doug H. seconded, and it was unanimously approved. Sam D. is stepping down as Chairman of Intergroup as of February 16, 2013. Doug H. was nominated and he was voted in as Chairman. Chad F. was nominated as Treasurer and he was voted in. Craig B. stated that Central Office is raising the price of the aluminum chips to \$0.45 each. Bronze chips will be raised to \$2.00 for the first two chips but would remain at \$1.60/chip if three or more were bought at the same time. There is a need to buy smaller quantities of chips, but chips are sold in allotments of 75 for each “year” bought. Joey R. read the *Opportunities to be of Service* in the February 2013 Newsletter. THERE IS A NEED FOR THESE POSITIONS TO BE FILLED!!! Intergroup Representatives are asked to announce these positions at their meetings. Also, Helen M. is going to contact the local newspapers concerning running ads on Service in A.A. *A Note from Central Office* is also in the February 2013 newsletter. Intergroup Representatives should read this note to their home groups, as well as handing out the newsletter to those interested in having a hard copy. Craig B. and Sam D. are getting the newsletter out to the groups who, at this time, do not have an Intergroup Representative. Craig B. is still working on an E-mail newsletter—it is, as of now, a work in progress. Chad F. brought up that people have been calling Central Office for rides to meetings. Craig B. stated that there is a liability factor if Central Office were to give rides. A.A. members can give rides but not Central Office. Craig B. will be going into surgery on February 28 and will be out for about four weeks. Bill P. will fill in for Craig during the interim.

Joy R. motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ted B., Secretary



From “Garden Hose Sobriety” October 2006

At church on day, the preacher said, “I am just a cheap, ordinary garden hose. The water that comes from me and waters your spiritual garden is not from me, it is from God. I am merely a conduit.”

It dawned on me: A.A. never needed my “support.” All my good works were really nothing, because I wanted to claim the credit. I wanted to be the Big Man on campus. That was a terrible mistake. When I effectively practice my program, I am only a cheap garden hose carrying God’s message of hope, recovery, and forgiveness. Neither Bill W. nor Dr. Bob tried hanging on to the notion that they got drunks sober. They believed they were used as agents of a Higher Power to serve [His] will.

When I go to a meeting today, I no longer have the delusion that I am supporting a good cause. I need A.A.; A.A. did quite well without me during my ten years of self-exile. I go to A.A. meetings today to hear and see how God is working. When I share at a meeting, it is not to try to “help” those poor wretches, it is because I need their help and guidance.

When I don’t share at a meeting, I listen intently to let my fellow recovering drunks know that God is listening to them through me, that God is being there for them through me.

Jeff M., El Paso, Texas

Via, *Voices of Long-term Sobriety*, p. 135

Before You Speak,

THINK

T: Is it true?

H: Is it helpful?

I: Is it inspiring?

N: Is it necessary?

K: Is it kind?

Via, the Internet

Misrepresentation Due to Misinterpretation of the Twelve Promises

Having a Big Book and reading it is not
the same as studying it.

Are the Twelve Promises on pages 83 and 84 of the Big Book being misrepresented? Let's take a look.

First: If we go back to the source and read the paragraph of the Big Book Containing the promises, it is immediately clear that they were not intended to be set apart. They are not written as a separate element as are the Steps (page 59) or the Traditions (page 562).

They are buried in text for a reason: They are part of a discussion of how to work the Steps. Not even all the Steps, really, but specifically the first nine. The paragraph in question follows a long description of the mess our alcoholic lives are in and advice on how to work our way out.

Second: They are not unconditional promises as they seem when set apart. Quite the contrary. They are the rewards that can be expected if we are painstaking about this phase of our development. What phase? The working of the first nine Steps as described in the preceding pages!

Let us recognize what is meant by painstaking. What

the Big Book is saying on page 83 is that if we have bared our souls, if we have completely reconstructed our shattered relationships with others, then we are going to know a new freedom . . . , then we will not regret the past, and so on through the rest of the promises. In fact it says, they will always materialize if we work for them. And the rest of that chapter is devoted to telling us how to continue to work for them by practicing Steps Ten and Eleven.

Third: When we quote the promises out of context, which is so often done, we may actually be playing down the Steps by glorifying the end results while ignoring the footwork so necessary to get them. It is sure easier to talk about the promises out of context than to go through the pain and discipline of taking the first nine Steps—which are clearly the prerequisites of the promises!

Via, the Internet

A Leap of Faith?

I wanted to give the Fellowship an update on our efforts to get an electronic email version of the *Newsletter for the Fellowship*. I believe, with Chad F.'s help, that I have found a program online which will allow me to reformat the hardcopy into a PDF type file. Hopefully it will not be too much longer before I am able to get the kinks worked out of it and get it running.

I truly appreciate your patience with me in this matter!

Betty B., Editor

P.S. I would also like to let you know I would like to get some local articles from our many aspiring writers among us. Don't be bashful. It's just one alcoholic talking with another!

Central Office Activities

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>	
Visitors	111	243	
Info. Calls	177	378	
12 Step Calls	3	4	
<u>Call Forwarding</u>			
Info. Calls	129	280	
12 Step Calls	3	4	
<u>Totals</u>			
Info Calls	306	658	
12 Step Calls	6	8	

Upcoming Events

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

April 20, 2013

Victor Valley Intergroup Meeting at Central Office at 9:30 a.m. Please plan on attending. For more information call 760-242-9292.

June 8, 2013

Founder's Day Picnic and Speaker Meeting at Schmidt Park, 13576 Mustang Rd., Victorville (formerly George A.F.B.). There will be more information to follow.

If your meeting or group is planning an event, please send your information, if possible, at least two months in advance to have it published in the newsletter. Either call Central Office at 760-242-9292, or email the info. to vvigco_aa@yahoo.com.

And Finally . . .

Research Confirms that Drinking Gives You the Same Benefits as Yoga

Savasana—Position of total relaxation



Balasana—Position that brings the sensation of peace and calm



Setu Bandha Sarvangasana—This position calms the brain and heals tired legs

