

NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

MAY 2014

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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.

Ebby's Miracle Was Ours

Ebby T. was in lukewarm water with the Manchester, Vermont, law officials. He had caused noticeable commotion in January of 1929 when he and Bill W. hired a barnstormer pilot to fly them into the local Equinox airport. Airplanes were a big deal in those days, so they informed city officials their time of arrival. A large gathering awaited in anticipation, only to observe both Bill and Ebby stumble and fall to the ground as they disgracefully and drunkenly disembarked. On a later occasion, Ebby slammed his car into the side of his terrified neighbor's house. Upon exiting he asked the lady for a cup of coffee. She called the constable instead. Such hi-jinks certainly heated the legal waters for Ebby. But Ebby's legal temperature was raised to boiling when he was reported for drunkenly shooting pigeons off the roof of his beautiful home in a very prestigious neighborhood—he faced six months incarceration!

Luckily, his Oxford Group friend, State Senator, Cebra Graves (his father was the judge), got him off the hook if he only return to court – sober – the following Monday. But it was only Saturday and Ebby had terrible shakes. Here is a quote from his 1954 talk in Dallas: *"Once home, I remembered I had three cold bottles of Ballantine Ale in the basement. I started thinking how I could nurse those three bottles over the weekend and still appear in court on Monday sober. I went down stairs for a bottle but began to think what I was doing wasn't being honest. What the judge had really meant was, 'Don't drink.' Ebby didn't! amazingly, he experienced an alcoholic release which lasted over two-and a half years, enough time to carry his message to drunken Bill W. in 1934 (pages 8—9 from the Big Book). We are now the beneficiaries of this unlikely **MIRACLE** eighty years later.*

Thank God for the pigeons!

Bob S., Richmond, IN

Via, Desert Lifeline, May 2014

The Drunken Monkey Hypothesis

This article does not represent any opinion held by G.S.O. or Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office. It was taken off the Wikipedia website, I'm assuming, by the Editor of the Desert Lifeline for use in their May 2014 issue. I just thought it was an interesting take on our malady.

Betty B., Editor

The drunken monkey hypothesis proposes that human attraction to ethanol may have a genetic basis due to the high dependence of the primate ancestor of *Homo sapiens* on fruit as a food source. Ethanol naturally occurs in ripe and over-ripe fruit and consequently early primates developed a genetically based attraction to the substance.

This hypothesis was originally proposed by Dr. Robert Dudley of the University of California at Berkeley and was the subject of a symposium at the meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. Dudley believes that while most addictive substances have a relatively short history of use, ethanol attraction may have a long evolutionarily based history. He believes that fruit ethanol may have been a significant source of energy and that the smell of the ripening fruit would help primates locate it. Ethanol is a relatively light molecule and diffuses rapidly in a natural environment. Primates are known to have a higher olfactory sensitivity to alcohol than other mammals. The once-beneficial attraction to ethanol may underlie human tendencies for alcohol use and alcohol abuse.

Typing, Raising Cash and “Imaginary Ulcer Attacks”

A timeline of the first year and a half of the making of the Big Book

Middle of Oct., 1937

Our co-founder Bill W. travels to Akron where the group meets and approves raising funds for paid missionaries, a chain of national hospitals and the writing of a book. The Ohio members don, however, intend to contribute any money themselves and they send Bill back to New York City to raise the money there.

May 20, 1938

Having collected just one contribution in the past seven months, Bill begins writing “Bill’s Story” and “There Is a Solution” – primarily as promotion pieces that he and Hank P. hope will open the wallets of the rich.



“While I lay in the hospital the thought came that there thousands of hopeless alcoholics who might be glad to have what had been freely given to me.” – “Bill’s Story”

June 17, 1938

The first copies of these two chapters are sent out in an effort to raise money from a New York banker. Many copies of the two chapters are sent out in similar fashion over the next several months. No money is raised.

August 7, 1938

Bill sends Dr. Bob advice on how the Akron people should write their stories for the book. “I would say that everyone should write at whatever length they want to; the more the better...” he writes. “The idea is that a chance word or phrase or experience may be the most telling point of the story, which would be missed entirely if people were trying to restrict themselves to a given number of words.”

“The alcoholic at certain times has no effective mental defense against the first drink ... His defense must come from a Higher Power.” – “More About Alcoholism”

“Unless this person can experience an entire psychic change there is very little hope of his recovery.” – “The Doctor’s Opinion”

July 27, 1938

Bill spends the month of July collecting favorable testimonials about A.A.’s success, one of which is written by Dr. William Silkworth of Towns Hospital in New York City (where Bill had his “white light” experience). It later appears as the first letter in “The Doctor’s Opinion.”

September 28, 1938

Bill sends Dr. Bob the first drafts of “More About Alcoholism” and “We Agnostics.” “Two more chapters of the book are close to completion,” he writes. “I am enclosing the original dictation on two of them so you can get a rough idea. You will understand that what I am sending you is just the rough, uncorrected outline. Will let you have the polished product when ready.”



November 3, 1938

Three more chapters are sent to Dr. Bob: “I am turning this stuff out as fast as I can, being only once-corrected dictation,” Bill writes. “You can’t call it serious writing. After I get all through with these general chapters on the present basis, I will edit them as carefully as I can, bearing in mind the criticisms and suggestions from anyone who wants to make them ... Everybody who has seen the personal stories from Akron thinks they are great.”

“Lack of power, that was our dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live, and it had to be a Power greater than ourselves.” – “We Agnostics”

November 15, 1938

Hank P. has had a hard time selling stock in Works Publishing to A.A. members who just can’t afford the price of \$25 a share. So he comes up with a creative time-payment plan of \$5 a month starting on this day. Many members subscribe and provide much of the money needed to fund the writing of this book.

Dr. Bob



Bill W.

“Half measures availed us nothing. We stood at the turning point. We asked His protection and care with complete abandon.” – “How It Works

Early December, 1938

Bill writes the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. He is in the midst of one of his “imaginary ulcer attacks” (which plague him in times of stress – and what could be more stressful than having to lay down “the rules” for sobriety?), but nonetheless he is able to come up with the first draft of his famous formulation in under 30 minutes.



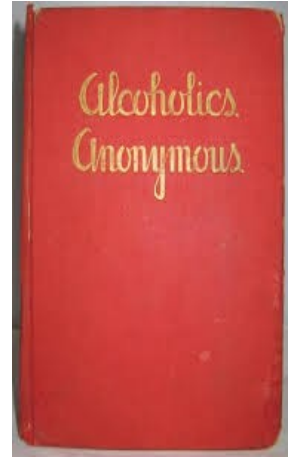
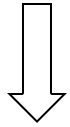
December 13, 1938

Bill tells Dr. Bob that “on the book, we are going hell bent for election. It is practically complete, and I will send you the rest of the chapters within two or three days. Next step is to make, after one editing, [photolytic] copies of the whole works.”



January 5, 1939

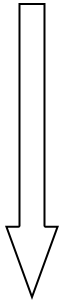
Tom Uzzell agrees to edit the manuscript of the Big Book. According to Bill, his most significant suggestion was to move “Bill’s Story” to the front of the book (it had previously been the first story in the back).



The first printing of the first edition was the only one that came in red.

Early April, 1939

Bill W., Hank P., Ruth Hock and Dorothy Snyder travel to Cornwall, N.Y. to make the final edits to the Big Book. Hank has many suggestions for last minute changes, but Bill makes all the final decisions on what goes in and what does not.



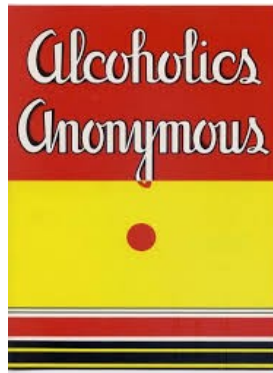
Mid-February, 1939

The multilith printing of what is now called “The original manuscript” is printed and circulated for comments and criticism. All the suggestions for changes are put into one master copy of the book; some of these are finally incorporated into the text and some are not.

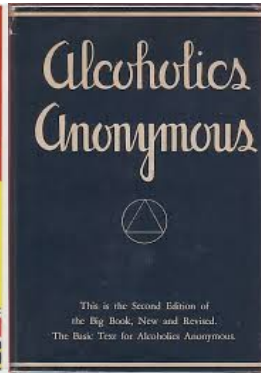


April 10, 1939

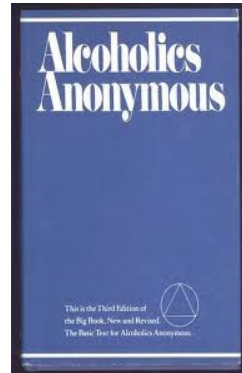
4,650 copies of the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, are printed. One hundred copies are delivered to Bill and Hank with several more copies going to Willard Richardson and Frank Amos (the Rockefeller associates that Bill and Hank have been working with for more than a year). More copies of the book will be released, but only after some payment has been made on the still outstanding bill with the printer.



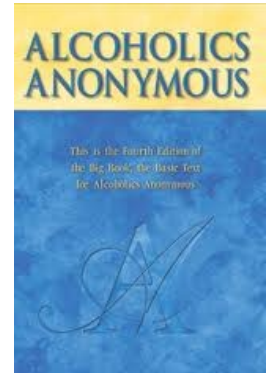
1st Edition
1939



2nd Edition
1955



3rd Edition
1976



4th Edition
2001

“To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book. For them, we hope these pages will prove so convincing that no further authentication will be necessary.” – Forward to the First Edition

Timeline written by Bill S., Fairfield, Conn.

Via, AA Grapevine, June 2013

Upcoming Events

Third Saturday of the Month

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

June 7, 2014

19th Annual Founders' Day Picnic, Doris Davies Park in Victorville. Festivities start at 8:00 a.m. Tickets and more information are available at Central Office.

June 14, 2014

District 19 will be hosting a "Mini PRAASA" at the Church of the Valley, 20700 Standing Rock Ave., Apple Valley, CA, from 11 a.m.—3 p.m. Come learn what your District Reps. do for our local A.A. Community. Lunch will be served.

Minutes of the Intergroup Meeting 19 April 14

The meeting was opened at 9:35 a.m. by Doug H., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Bill P. read the Twelve Traditions. In attendance were Doug H., Joey R., Betty B., Craig B., Bill P., Helen M., Ted B., and Carl O. Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. With a minor correction the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bill P. gave the report in the absence of Chad F. As of March 31, 2014, there was a balance of \$8,849.97 in savings, \$7,109.85 in the C.D., and \$7,892.39 in checking. Income for the month of March was \$4,636.75, with total expenses being \$3,213.82. March literature sales were \$1,849.12 with purchases being \$2,014.80; total literature sales were a negative \$165.68. The net March income was \$1,257.28. In March, 12 people contributed \$416.00 to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Webmaster's Report: There was no report.

Ways and Means Report: Joey R. gave the report. The Founders' Day Picnic will be June 7 at Doris Davies Park (formerly Pebble Beach Park) in Victorville. There will be horseshoes and possibly a softball game. Tickets will be \$7.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children. If people wish to help regarding the Picnic, the next meeting will be May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office. The report was accepted.

Office Manager's Report: Craig B. reported that there were 109 visitors to Central Office in March. There were 175 information calls and one 12-Step call. There were 114 call-forwarding calls and one 12-Step call. The totals were 289 information calls and two 12-Step calls. Events are coming up in the near future regarding Public Information. At this time Craig B. will call in relation to a June 14 event. The Anniversary Edition of the Big Book is available and for sale (\$13.00) at Central office. Please announce at your meetings. The Office Man-

ager's Report was accepted.

Newsletter Report: Betty B. gave the report. The first mass-mailing of the newsletter went well. Betty mailed 53—59 newsletters and only three came back. There is still a need for articles for the newsletter. The Newsletter Report was accepted.

Ride to Recovery Report: Bill P. gave the report. The Ride was a success! The total amount that will be contributed to Central Office will be \$4,071.00 (once the \$150.00 cleaning deposit is returned from Beatty, NV). The report was accepted.

Group News: Carl O. reported that there is a new meeting/meeting changes at the Hesperia Umbrella Group. There is a new women's meeting (As Bill Sees It) at 7:00 p.m. on the first and second Thursdays of every month. The Candlelight Meeting has been restarted and meets at 10:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and the Wednesday Night Men's Stag Meeting (7:00 p.m.) has been changed to an open meeting for both men and women.

Old Business: There was no Old Business.

New Business: Newcomers should be given Central Office's web site (www.victorvalleyaa.org) regarding meetings. In that way they will not become confused with other web sites which may have misleading information concerning A.A. meetings in the High Desert.

The next Intergroup Meeting will be May 17, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.

Doug H. motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted B., Secretary

Central Office Activities

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Visitors	111	443
Info. Calls	173	1,343
12 Step Calls	0	4
<u>Call Forwarding</u>		
Info. Calls	118	451
12 Step Calls	2	7
<u>Totals</u>		
Info Calls	291	815
12 Step Calls	2	11

And Finally . . .

*If you are depressed,
you are living in the past.*

*If you are anxious,
you are living in the future.*

*If you are at peace,
you are living in the present.*

Lao Tzu