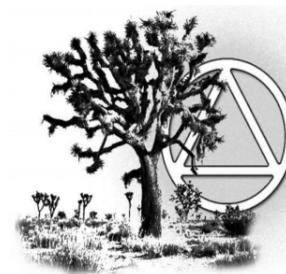


NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

AUGUST 2016

Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.
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“You can’t think your way into right action, but you can act your way into right thinking.”

— Bill Wilson.



Did you know?



THE SLIP SQUAD

The below text is taken from the book: *Alcoholics Anonymous: 80 Years Happy, Joyous and Free*. International A.A. Convention, Atlanta, Georgia, July 2nd to 5th, 2015.

“In 1943, the A.A. Headquarters in New York asked groups to send in their membership rules. They were a trifle shocked by the number and variety they received.

For instance, the Wilson Club, which was a meeting space for A.A. groups in St. Louis around 1942, was very specific about slips. As it informed its members: “The Wilson Club does not condone ‘slipping’ nor does it welcome habitual slippers and ‘back-door’ A.A.s to its membership.” After a first slip, a member would be compelled to “admit his drunkenness to the group.” After a second, he or she would be forced to “turn in his membership card.” A third slip was cause for permanent expulsion, although group members might help the unfortunate alcoholics privately.

If you came into A.A. in Little Rock, Arkansas, you were initiated into the program via something called the “Little Rock Plan.” Specifically, a newly sober person had to leave his or her job for two weeks, and was required to spend that entire time within the confines of the Little Rock A.A. clubroom, preparing a “case history” and fulfilling other assignments given by a sponsor. If this was successful, he or she would be admitted to the program, but if the new member had a slip, he or she was placed with other backsliders in “the slip squad” - a kind of probation—where they might spend from two weeks to six months before being once again recognized as a full member.

Writing in Grapevine, with the tone of fond exasperation that he so often took in such situations, Bill W. wrote: “If all of these edicts had been in force everywhere at once...about nine-tenths of our oldest and best members could never have got by!” Fortunately, most groups in A.A. in the 1940s embraced the Big Book principle that “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.””

Step Eight

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”

Our 12 and 12 book suggests 3 things to do regarding this step. One, look back and see where we have been at fault. Two, make a good attempt to fix any damage we have done. And, third, having “...cleaned away the debris of the past, we consider how, with our new found knowledge of ourselves, we may develop the best possible relations with every human being we know.”

WOW! Really? Develop the best possible relations with every human being we know? For me this is one tall order. One that requires, at times, more than I believe I have in me. I have tried to live up to this ideal in A.A. Since I have become an active member of this fellowship. Like the big book says, we may get better at this but it is, what will most likely be, a life-long process. And, one that we will probably never completely finish. The saying, “It’s the journey not the destination that matters,” fits well here.

This step and step nine help us to live a life of greater peace. For me steps eight and nine were the hardest ones. Admitting that I was wrong about so many things was not an easy place to come to. My ex-wife and my children were at the top of my amends list.

Continued on page 2

"Every A.A. Has found that he can make little headway in his new adventure of living until he first backtracks and really makes an accurate and unsparing survey of the human wreckage he has left in his wake."

Once I was willing to begin I soon found that the pain was greatly reduced and many of the roadblocks began to clear.

I remember hearing early in the program that justified resentments will kill me. How easy it is to get caught up in the fact that I had been wronged and was "justified" in my feelings and my actions toward those whom I felt had harmed me. For me, this was a ride I could never get off of. It became an endless cycle of tit-for-tat. What was even worse was the fact that while I was busy either stewing over some wrong that I felt had been perpetrated on me or plotting my revenge, I could never begin to address what my part in the matter was.

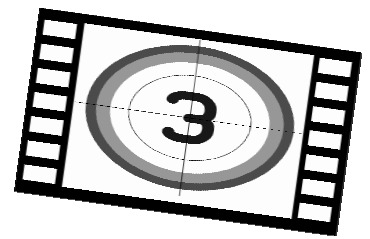
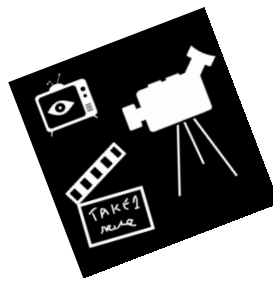
True too was the fact that most of my "friend", while I was drinking, were into the same craziness that I was. I never had any trouble finding someone to cosign my BS. I think some of them even enjoyed it. For me there was no progress until I was willing to forgive. And it had to be a forgiveness with no strings attached. Just as I have learned to offer help in the same any. With no expectation of a return. That is how I came to offer my amends. To make right what I can. Admit I was wrong. And, hopefully, move forward.

"Calm, thoughtful reflection upon personal relations can deepen our insight. We can go beyond those things which are superficially wrong with us, to see those flaws which were basic, flaws which sometimes, were responsible for the whole pattern of our lives."

Another issue that arises during this step is looking at what our part is in the harm done to others. I remember saying that I had harmed no one but myself. I did not realize until later that that harm I was doing to myself was in many ways harming those around me that cared for and loved me. Acknowledging and then addressing the harms I had done were a big part of my eighth and ninth steps. Another was following the advice I heard someone give, "Cause no more pain."

After doing my eighth and ninth steps I did begin to make a much more conscious effort to cause no more pain. I began to recognize when I was starting to slide into those situations in which I knew taking me to a place where either I or someone else was going to get hurt. As I noticed it, I would stop, and practice the steps. The other steps have helped me learn to deal with life in a better way. Even if was to admit that my way was wrong.

Submitted by Scott J.
Apple Valley



Time for a Movie Night? AA in the Movies

There have been a number of movies which have revolved around or eluded to Alcoholics Anonymous. Below is a list of some popular ones.

The below text is taken from the book: *Alcoholics Anonymous: 80 Years Happy, Joyous and Free*. International A.A. Convention, Atlanta, Georgia, July 2nd to 5th, 2015.

"MY NAME IS BILL W.: In an Emmy-winning performance, James Woods gives a moving portrayal of Bill Wilson.

BILL W.: Another Bill movie, only this time a documentary about his life.

WHEN A MAN LOVES A WOMAN: Starring Meg Ryan and Andy Garcia, this is the story of a "perfect" marriage threatened by a wife's alcoholism and her husband's reaction to it.

28 DAYS: Sandra Bullock stars as a party girl who is forced to get serious about her recovery at a rehab."

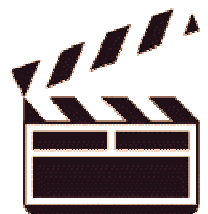
Other interesting portrayals of alcoholism to check out:

THE LOST WEEKEND (1945) starring Ray Miland, Jane Wyman, Phillip Terry, Howard Da Silva

DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES (1962) starring Jack Lemmon, Lee Remick, Charles Bickford, Jack Klugman

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (1995) starring Nicolas Cage, Elisabeth Shue, Julian Sands, Richard Lewis

FLIGHT (2012), starring Denzel Washington, Nadine Velazquez, Don Cheadle, John Goodman



FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF July 31st, 2016

Savings	\$ 500.00	\$ 18,524.49
C.D.	\$ 2.47	\$ 10,005.02
Cash in Union Checking		\$ 3,298.56

INCOME	JULY	Y.T.D.
Group Donations	\$ 1,495.14	\$ 8,031.45
Birthdays	\$ -	\$ 206.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 23.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 257.00	\$ 3,247.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 606.25	\$ 4,622.35
Coffee Kitty	\$ 9.00	\$ 147.10
Buck of the Month	\$ 2.73	\$ 29.93
Ride for Recovery	\$ -	\$ 4,639.50
AA Mountain Conference	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Faithful Fivers	\$ -	\$ 20.00
2016 Convention	\$ -	\$ 655.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 13.10	\$ 125.10
INCOME FOR THE MONTH	\$ 2,383.22	\$ 22,056.43

EXPENSES		Y.T.D.
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 2,520.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 130.41	\$ 889.92
Utilities	\$ 112.59	\$ 540.29
Manager Salary	\$ 1,027.28	\$ 7,190.96
Charter	\$ 101.93	\$ 663.07
Printing	\$ 44.82	\$ 398.88
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 201.14	\$ 1,596.97
Chips and Medallions	\$ 192.69	\$ 3,026.83
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ 144.22	\$ 377.59
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 882.00
Atty. Gen. of California	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Franchise Tax Board	\$ -	\$ 35.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ 1,081.28	\$ 3,243.86
Freedom Financial (tax prep)	\$ 60.00	\$ 215.00
Credit Card Fee	\$ -	\$ 161.94
Alarm	\$ -	\$ 192.00
Ride For Recovery	\$ -	\$ 635.00
Stamps	\$ -	\$ 196.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,456.36	\$ 22,790.31

INCOME BEFORE LITERATURE \$ (1,073.14) \$ (733.88)

LITERATURE		
Sales	\$ 555.32	\$ 7,267.36
Purchases	\$ 1,613.00	\$ 4,947.20
Total Literature	\$ (1,057.68)	\$ 2,320.16

NET INCOME \$ (2,130.82) \$ 1,586.28

APPLE VALLEY		
Anonymous Group	\$ -	\$ 854.22
Keep it Simple	\$ 132.00	\$ 253.00

Sunday Coffee Kitty	\$ -	\$ 42.00
There is a Solution	\$ -	\$ 222.00
Mon. 5 p.m. Open Participation	\$ -	\$ 45.00
Wed. Womens Participation	\$ -	\$ 110.00
How It Works	\$ 66.26	\$ 376.58
Simple Changes	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 60.50	\$ 412.57
Questions & Answers	\$ -	\$ 30.00
Front & Center	\$ 120.22	\$ 715.00
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ -	\$ 250.00
T.G.I.F.	\$ -	\$ 55.82
Friday Nite Lites	\$ 30.00	\$ 160.00
Monday Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 105.00
Cedar Street Big Book	\$ -	\$ 40.00
Original Big Book	\$ -	\$ 54.15
Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk.	\$ 84.16	\$ 186.16
Primary Purpose	\$ -	\$ 60.00
Sunday Night Campfire	\$ 72.00	\$ 72.00

Barstow		
Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$ 120.00	\$ 504.00
Friday Nite Live	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Happy Hour- Vets Home	\$ 60.00	\$ 110.00
Our Primary Purpose	\$ -	\$ 75.00

Ft. Irwin		
New Horizons II	\$ -	\$ 52.95

HESPERIA		
Back to Basics	\$ 450.00	\$ 1,391.00

LUCERNE VALLEY		
The Place	\$ -	\$ 20.00

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

Phelan		
Thurs. Big Book	\$ 60.00	\$ 90.00
Phelan Sober Group	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00

Silver Lakes		
No Valid Complaints	\$ -	\$ 130.00
4th Dimension Big Book	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Sat. Night Serenity	\$ -	\$ 90.00

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

Financials continued from page 3

Wrightwood

Wed. Mens Stag	\$	60.00	\$	120.00
9a.m. Open Participation	\$	120.00	\$	180.00

Buck of the Month

Jeanie \$2.73

No Intergroup meeting was held for the month of August, so there are no business meeting notes to report. Next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 17th.



Our disease wants us dead, but it will settle for miserable.

- Unknown author

Important Reminder!

If sending checks to the Central Office, please make all checks payable to:

“Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office”

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

CENTRAL OFFICE STATISTICS			
	July	Y.T.D.	
Visitors	93	693	
Information Calls	133	1081	
12-Step Calls	1	7	
CALL FORWARDNG			
Information Calls	134	809	
12 Step Calls	1	15	
TOTALS			
Information Calls	267	1890	
12 Step Calls	2	22	

Upcoming Events

H&I Round-Up

Saturday, September 24th
Victor Valley Alano Club

Chili cook-off, horseless rodeo, 50/50 drawing, and speaker Scott R. from Orange, CA.

11am—Event begins
1pm—Speaker

Chili & Cornbread—\$4, Winner of the chili cook-off determined by the chili that brings in the most votes (\$1 = 1 vote)



For more info call Melody at 760 596 2476

The Celebration with Love in Lucerne Valley

October 8th and 9th
(Saturday and Sunday)
Senior Center (Right behind the library on Allen Way)

Breakfast will be served on both days at 8am (\$5.00 donation).
Lunch will be served at noon (\$7.00 donation). Saturday evening at 8:45 we will have a FREE ice cream social and Sunday evening there will be a potluck at 5pm.
There will be several great speakers and a 50/50 drawing.

For more information call Melody at 760 596 2476