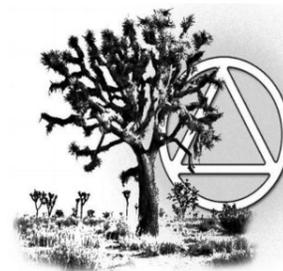


# NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

DEC. 2016

Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.  
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Apple Valley, CA 92307  
Telephone: 760-242-9292  
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*As the holiday lights come on, we give thanks. Thanks for the inner light which is our sobriety in A.A. Thanks for the light of hope in the face of the sick alcoholic who is reborn. Thanks for the light of the present — the awareness of this precious moment. Thanks for the light of new attitudes. And humble thanks for the glorious light of love through fellowship and service. May the grace of light fill each day of the coming year.*

*Reprinted from: News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A. Vol. 49, No. 6 / HOLIDAY ISSUES, 2003.*

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## For A.A.s, A Season of Gratitude

*Reprinted from: News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A. Vol. 49, No. 6 / HOLIDAY ISSUES, 2003*

The holiday season can be difficult for many A.A.s, especially the newcomer. The pressure to drink may feel overwhelming when it seems all the world is hoisting glasses in one toast after another. At these times, the prospect of the usual round of holiday parties can be as inviting as a stroll in a minefield to the alcoholic struggling to stay away from the first drink. The A.A. group, though, can be a refuge. Meeting marathons provide a safe place for recovering alcoholics who are on their own, as well as those looking for a break from family festivities. Some groups schedule dances or potluck dinners, providing a place to congregate and celebrate in sober fellowship. It's safe to say that A.A. group celebrations are held in most parts of the world, wherever seasonal festivities are celebrated. Large or small, in remote rural areas or big cities, the sharing and hospitality always center on a regular A.A. meeting. But the styles of group gatherings are as varied as the members and regional customs dictate. Some A.A. members will create a tradition of going to dinner with friends on the holidays. A.A.s generally do better with structure, and we can make it easier on

ourselves by planning ahead. Arranging our own get-togethers with A.A. members is a good way to make the best of the holidays. Obviously, we can have a New Year's Eve party like anyone else, minus the alcohol (and the hangover).

Some find it rewarding to throw themselves into carrying the message of A.A. by visiting hospitals, treatment centers or correctional facilities. One A.A. returned each year in December to the rehab where he got sober. Another A.A. bakes "cop cookies" and hands them out to officers who used to arrest her. The story of the first holiday season for A.A. was the subject of an article in the December 1952 Grapevine. Bill W. remembered only a quiet day in New York that first Christmas — there were so few members. Meanwhile, the six men who constituted the whole of A.A. in Akron gathered with their families at Dr. Bob's house. The Grapevine article quotes one A.A. member at that gathering: "There were thanks that we had come this far. However, I am certain that there was still considerable fear and trembling . . . not fear that this new way would not work, but doubt that we would be able to hold onto it. We remembered our many failures and thanked God for what he had already granted us and prayed for continued strength." This time of the year can be fraught with yearning for a feeling about the holidays remembered from long ago. It is also natural that if you imagine yourself out of step with what's called a season of joy, you will feel isolated. And it's widely accepted that the pressure to be merry, on cue, is stressful. A.A. members, though, have the benefit of a program that teaches the value of acceptance, an antidote to the enforced gaiety of a season when loneliness may seem a failing as well as a misery. And A.A. members have a way or remaking their worlds, or rediscovering what they once had. In the words of the Twelfth Step, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is about "the joy of good living."

As Doug H. in Maine looks back on his drinking days, he remembers the holidays as "something to dread — too much free time to reflect on how lonely I was, what a failure I was. And how was I going to make sure I had enough booze around to keep the demons at bay? Then there were all the people I 'had' to see, get-togethers that would remind me, lest I forget, what a failure I was.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

Now holidays are just what they're supposed to be, a break from work, a time to relax. Above all, they are a time to reflect on what the A.A. program has given me and to do what I can do in return." One member says, "I'm Jewish, but we celebrated all the holidays — had a Christmas tree, the whole thing. Of course, my now ex-wife did everything and I drank." Now sober 16 years, he reports that, "My first wife has invited me and my current wife to celebrate Thanksgiving at her house. It comes around full circle. The journey continues." And, when all else fails, contact your local intergroup/central office for holiday meetings and events in your area.

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## Thank You Message from your Central Office

### Another Sober Year Is Coming to an End

I was told early on in sobriety that one need not thank people for their service; that being of service had its own intrinsic reward — being useful, getting out of one's self, doing for others. That being said, here is a list of people who, for the past year, have served you at your Central Office. Also on this list are the names of those who answered the phones after business hours from their own phones. These are the A.A. members who direct the new ones to your meetings and groups. Plus there is a long list of men and women on the Twelve Step list. These are the members that get called at all hours of the day and night to respond to the still suffering alcoholic reaching out for help.

Working behind the scenes we have the Intergroup Board of Directors and the Intergroup Representatives; the members who meet monthly and make the decisions that affect the Central Office. Thanks, too, to the Service Committee members who donate their time and resources to raise money for Central Office such as Ride for Recovery and the Convention Committee. At this time I want to thank the groups, meetings, and the individual members who have given monetary support to Central Office. We haven't hit our six month prudent reserve, yet, but with your continued support we will make it.

Your efforts have proven that spirituality and money do mix.

**Merry Christmas and a may each of you have a Happy, Sober, and Prosperous New Year!**

*In sobriety, Craig B. Office Manager*



## Thank You for your Service!

**Office Volunteers:** Bill P., Sam D., Mike E., Spencer O., Marvin Y., Bob R., Steve W., Cliff S., Ron M., Melody R., Steve D., Glenn G., Fred E., and Debbie D.

**Call Forwarding:** Kathy G., Wayne S., Randy W., Susan B., Chad F., Wayne U., Randi O., Marvin Y., Jeff A., Paula M., Jeff L., Fred E., Laura J., Linda K., Patrick C., and Patty B.,

**Board of Directors:** Chairman: Helen M.; Co-Chair: Ted B. Treasurer: Chad F. Secretary: Bill P. Associate Member: Carl O.; Newsletter Editor: Julia W. and Scott J. Webmaster: Jim F.

### Men's 12-Step List

**Apple Valley:** Spence O., Craig B., Sam D., Vito M., Jim R., John W., and Tom H.

**Barstow:** Bob O., Joe H.

**Ft. Irwin:** Bob. O.

**Helendale / Silver Lake:** Craig N., Bob D.

**Spanish:** Gilbert

**Hesperia:** Bus Driver Steve, Lucky Mike, John P., Doug H., Ed L., Jeff L., Carl O. John T., Steve C. Joe B., Randy W., John T., and Dwight G.

**Lucerne Valley:** Pat P., Patrick C.

**Phelan / Wrightwood:** Ed L., Vill, Richard T.

**Victorville:** Ed H., Pete T., Greg F., and Gary M.

**Yermo:** Larry S.

### Women's 12-Step List

**Apple Valley:** Kim, Pam R., Dolly S., Irish H., Donna H., Erin D., Melody R., Debbie E., Becky B., Marlene C., Cheri L., Betty B., Kim O., and Pam W.

**Barstow:** Tony P.

**Helendale / Silver Lake:** Carolyn H.

**Hesperia:** Kim, Carol R., Kathy G., Helen Mc., and Angie A.

**Phelan / Wrightwood:** Anna May S.

**Victorville:** Debra H., Kim

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF NOV 30, 2016**

	<b>BALANCE</b>	
Savings	\$ 18,524.95	
Cash in Union Checking	\$ 4,249.65	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>Y.T.D.</b>
Group Donations	\$ 888.33	\$ 13,238.13
Birthdays	\$ -	\$ 350.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 23.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 332.00	\$ 4,500.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 437.68	\$ 7,101.04
Literature	\$ 955.27	\$ 11,331.62
Credit Card Fee	\$ 8.00	\$ 35.00
Coffee Kitty	\$ 25.79	\$ 219.07
Buck of the Month	\$ -	\$ 29.93
Ride for Recovery	\$ -	\$ 4,639.50
Other	\$ 126.00	\$ 204.42
ICYPAA Donation	\$ -	\$ 34.56
AA Mountain Conference	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Faithful Fivers	\$ -	\$ 80.00
Women's Banquet	\$ -	\$ 300.00
2016 Convention	\$ -	\$ 655.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ -	\$ 164.45
<b>INCOME FOR THE MONTH</b>	<b>\$ 2,773.07</b>	<b>\$ 43,215.72</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 3,960.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 122.83	\$ 1,378.37
Utilities	\$ 57.19	\$ 875.04
Manager Salary	\$ 1,027.28	\$ 11,300.08
Charter	\$ 102.07	\$ 981.72
Printing	\$ 44.82	\$ 696.16
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 229.75	\$ 2,456.41
Chips and Medallions	\$ 205.20	\$ 4,207.98
Literature	\$ 1,082.54	\$ 6,993.62
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ -	\$ 445.06
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 1,235.00
Atty. Gen. of California	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Franchise Tax Board	\$ -	\$ 35.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ -	\$ 4,325.16
Freedom Financial (tax prep)	\$ -	\$ 275.00
Credit Card Fee	\$ 25.25	\$ 276.60
Alarm	\$ -	\$ 384.00
Ride For Recovery	\$ -	\$ 635.00
Stamps	\$ -	\$ 196.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,256.93</b>	<b>\$ 40,681.20</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ (483.86)</b>	<b>\$ 2,534.52</b>
<b>APPLE VALLEY</b>		
Anonymous Group	\$ 104.00	\$ 1,334.22
Keep it Simple		\$ 373.00
Coffee Talk		\$ 72.00
There is a Solution		\$ 222.00

Mon. 5 p.m. Open Participation	\$	45.00
Wed. Womens Participation	\$	125.00
How It Works	\$ 40.00	\$ 541.41
Simple Changes	\$ 100.00	\$ 275.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 88.30	\$ 591.94
Questions & Answers		\$ 53.00
Front & Center	\$ 108.06	\$ 1,325.27
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 50.00	\$ 568.00
T.G.I.F.	\$ 64.37	\$ 180.19
Friday Nite Lites		\$ 210.00
Monday Back to Basics		\$ 155.00
Cedar Street Big Book		\$ 70.00
Original Big Book		\$ 134.15
Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk.		\$ 246.16
Sun. Just for Today		\$ 80.00
7 P.M. Monday Big Book		\$ 25.00
Thursday Mens Stag		\$ 55.00
Primary Purpose		\$ 120.00
Sunday Night Campfire	\$ 42.60	\$ 189.28
<b>Barstow</b>		
Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 804.00
Friday Nite Live		\$ 1,053.22
Happy Hour- Vets Home		\$ 240.34
Our Primary Purpose		\$ 175.00
Into Action		\$ 200.00
AA Literature Study	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
<b>Ft. Irwin</b>		
New Horizons II	\$ -	\$ 67.95
<b>HESPERIA</b>		
Back to Basics	\$ 51.00	\$ 1,892.00
<b>LUCERNE VALLEY</b>		
The Place	\$ -	\$ 20.00
<b>Newberry Springs</b>		
Thurs. Big Book Study	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Sat Breakfast Club	\$ -	\$ 90.00
<b>Phelan</b>		
Thurs. Big Book	\$ -	\$ 190.00
Phelan Sober Group	\$ -	\$ 180.00
<b>Silver Lakes</b>		
No Valid Complaints	\$ -	\$ 150.00
4th Dimension Big Book	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Sat. Night Serenity	\$ -	\$ 90.00
<b>VICTORVILLE</b>		
Friday Speaker Meeting	\$ -	\$ 130.00
Little House	\$ -	\$ 40.00
As Bill sees it	\$ -	\$ 160.00
Mixed Bag Group	\$ -	\$ 50.00

*Financials continued from page 3*

Sat. Step Study	\$	-	\$	5.00
Tumbleweed Group	\$	-	\$	10.00

**Wrightwood**

Wed. Mens Stag	\$	-	\$	240.00
Mon. Womens	\$	-	\$	50.00
9a.m. Open Participation	\$	120.00	\$	480.00

<b>CENTRAL OFFICE</b>			
<b>STATISTICS</b>			
		Nov.	YTD
	Visitors	67	1022
	Information Calls	141	1673
	12-Step Calls	0	12
<b>CALL FORWARDNG</b>			
	Information Calls	105	1236
	12 Step Calls	1	22
<b>TOTALS</b>			
	Information Calls	246	2909
	12 Step Calls	1	34

**AA fun, to the tune of the Christmas Carol:**



**THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

With the first Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
A day of sobriety.

With the second Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
A wee bit of faith, and

With the third Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
Will -- ing -- ness.

My HP gave to me,  
pencil, pad & pen,

With the fifth Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
Another Human Being

With the sixth Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
Lots of opinions. . .

With the seventh Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
Ego deflation. . .

With the eighth Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
Too good a mem'ry. . .

With the ninth Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
Shatterproof glasses . . .

With the tenth Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
Spot checks a plenty . . .

With the eleventh Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
The Prayer of St Francis

With the twelfth Step of AA  
My HP gave to me,  
Calls on the hotline. . .

*Taken from the "New Reporter" AA newsletter, Washington, DC,  
Volume 44 No.12 Washington Area Intergroup Association  
December 2007*

**Limited Stock:  
Original Big Books For Sale**

Interested in owning an original Big Book?  
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and stories).

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tral Office at 760-242-9292.

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