

NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

FEB. 2017

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“No matter how unreasonable others may seem, I am responsible for not reacting negatively. Regardless of what is happening around me, I will always have the prerogative, and the responsibility, of choosing what happens within me. I am the creator of my own reality. When I review my day, I know that I must stop judging others. If I judge others, I am probably judging myself. Whoever is upsetting me most is my best teacher. I have much to learn from him or her, and in my heart, I should thank that person.”

-Bill W.

Tradition Two

Taken from Buddy T., May 26th, 2016.

Available at URL:

<https://www.verywell.com/a-study-of-tradition-2-69424>

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

In AA, there is no such thing as individual authority. No one member "directs" or "controls" the actions of the other members of the group. Group decisions are just that, group decisions. After a discussion of all aspects of a given situation, including the minority opinion, the group votes on the issue and an agreement is reached with the majority vote. This vote is called a "group conscience."

Each group is a fellowship of equals. No matter what an individual member's background, education, or professional expertise, no member has authority "over" the group. In this way, the fellowship reaches out to all who would seek its comfort and provides the atmosphere of a sense of "belonging" to all members. But there are leaders...

This tradition has been misquoted many times as, "we have no leaders." But it clearly states that each group **does** have its leaders, they just have no authority over the rest of the group. Whether they be the group's representative to the area or district, or the secretary or treasurer, they have been entrusted with the responsibility to **serve** the group, not make decisions for it.

Groups clearly have other "leaders" also. There are those, who by sharing their wisdom and strength in the meetings, who are quietly recognized by the group as "spiritual leaders." There are those members, who are so well founded in the principles and traditions of the program, the group turns to when questions arise involving possible violations of those principles and traditions. These too are leaders, but they do not govern either.

Below are stories from some members' experience with the second tradition.

A Sense of Belonging

Before I came into the rooms, I never really felt that I "belonged" to any group. No matter what committee, board of directors, steering committee, or whatever group I was a member of, I always had this feeling that everybody else "belonged" there, but I was somehow just visiting -- or intruding even.

To compensate for my low self-esteem, I usually overcompensated. I always had to be the one who sold the most tickets, raised the most money, volunteered the most time or whatever.

This was my way of trying to get to the point where my membership in the group was "justified." So that I would feel that I was truly a part of the team. But, it never really worked.

It was in these meetings that I learned the concept that the "meeting" did not belong to anyone, except those who showed up and participated. There was nobody who "ran" things. Nobody was "in charge." Our leaders were but trusted servants, they did not govern.

Continued on page 2

As I kept coming back to the various meetings, I discovered that AA really meant what it said. Every meeting I ever attended was just as much "my" meeting as it was anyone's.

It took awhile to sink in, but I finally got that sense of belonging and it has carried over to other areas of my life. I now know that just by being a member and showing up and participating, I am just as much a part of the group as the oldest "old-timer." And my opinions are given just as much consideration, and are just as welcome, as anyone's in group discussions.

Wendy

A Group Conscience as Necessary

It was one of those memorable meetings that we are sometimes privileged to attend. In Australia people do not volunteer to speak at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting but are called by name or are pointed to by the chairperson. A few pass by simply saying that they will "just identify" with their name and the fact that they are an alcoholic, but most come up to the front and have a go at sharing.

The person in the chair was an Aussie bloke who called mostly males only to speak. After the first few men spoke the females were getting restive, after the next few guys spoke, some of the women got really agitated, and then after a few more mostly male calls, one of the women literally exploded.

She stood up and shouted "No! That's it, you sexist pig! Are we invisible? Not worth hearing?" Our chairperson said: "Look, I'm in the chair and I'll call whomever I am moved to pick and it isn't you so sit down and respect the meeting!"

Uh, oh! Not exactly the right thing to say to this feminist former street person in recovery! In her wrath, she made a beeline for the chairperson with obvious homicidal intent! Others cheered or jeered as pandemonium erupted.

An old timer jumped up, raised hands high and yelled "Group Conscience, Group Conscience..." like a chant. A few others picked up the chant and a momentary silence fell.

"Tradition two on the banner there indicates that I as a member of this group can call for a Group Conscience meeting at any time and I call for one right now!"

The woman was asked: "Please state your case to us all". She did. She said that fairness required that women speakers alternate with men until the females had all had a chance to either pass or speak.

The man in the chair was then asked to please state his case. He said that he had determined that there were five times more men in the room than women so he thought that it would be fair to call on women one-fifth of the time.

Others were asked for any other comments. There were a few more women who felt slighted and only one friend of the chairman who agreed with him. A moment of silent reflection was called for, to ask our respective higher powers to guide us in voting and then all were asked to close their eyes except for the aggrieved woman and the chairman who would together count the raised hands for each method.

The woman's "boy-girl" alternative method was obviously over-

whelmingly approved and we all settled down for a lovely second part of the meeting.

It's not the first time I have seen a "Group Conscience" called for during a meeting but it was the most dramatic.

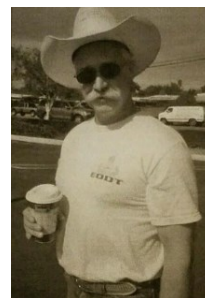
Aussie Chuck



*Things We
Cannot Change*

*Patrick L. of
Apple Valley*

*passed away on
January 24th, 2017 with 8
years of sobriety.*



He will be missed.

The Female Marine

A teacher gave her fifth grade class an assignment: Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it.

The next day, the kids came back and, one by one, began to tell their stories.

There were all the regular types of stuff: Spilled milk and pennies saved, but then the teacher realized there was one more student left to present, Janie.

"Janie, do you have a story to share?"

"yes ma'am. My daddy told me a story about my mommy She was a marine pilot in Desert Storm, and her plane got hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory and all she had was a flask of whiskey, a pistol and a survival knife.

She drank the whiskey on the way down so the bottle wouldn't break, and then she parachuted right into the middle of 20 Iraqi troops. She shot 15 of them with the pistol, until she ran out of bullets, killed 4 more with the knife, till the blade broke, and then she killed the last Iraqi with her bare hands."

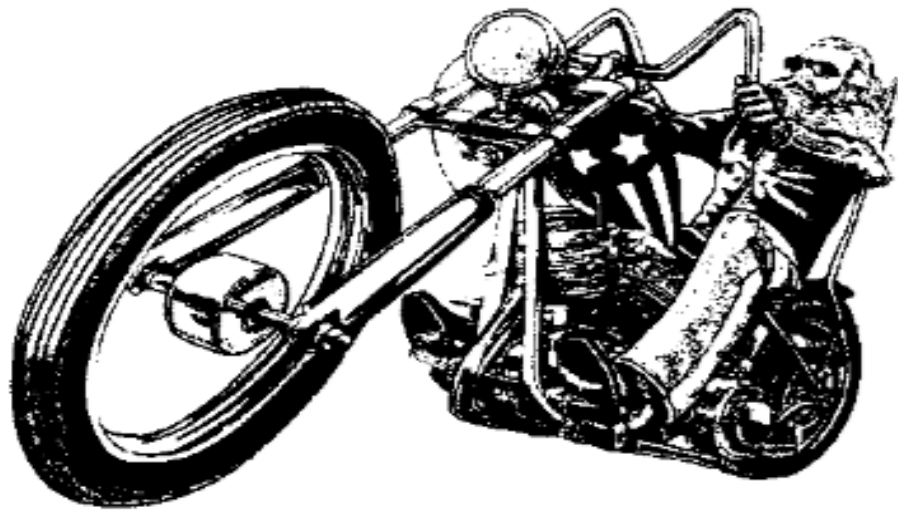
"Good heavens!" said the horrified teacher. "what did your Daddy tell you was the moral to this horrible story?"

"Don't screw with Mommy when she's been drinking."

*Submitted by
Chad F.*

Death Valley

11TH ANNUAL
POKER RUN



March 31 & April 1, 2017

All Vehicles are welcome



VICTOR VALLEY CENTRAL OFFICE

11th Annual Ride for Recovery Registration Form

Friday, March 31, 2017

Early Registration before March 1st, 2017, \$30 per Entry
(NO REFUNDS)

7:00 PM Speaker Meeting Kick-Off

Speaker: Shawn H.
Barstow Veterans Home
100 Veterans parkway Bld 74F
Barstow, CA 92311

On-Site Registration \$35.00 per Entry
Additional Cards \$5.00
9 Card Special \$30.00

Saturday, April 1, 2017

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM Registration / Check-In

Barstow Alano Club
129 white Street
Barstow, CA 92311

Coffee, Donuts, Ride maps

Draw 1st card

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Shoshone gas station

Draw 2nd card

10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

Donte's View

Draw 3rd card

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM LUNCH

Furnace creek—overflow area

Lunch \$8.00 person (must have ticket)
(Gas at Shoshone)

Draw 4th card

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Rhyolite Ghost Town

Final Card—End of Run

7:00 PM Speaker Meeting @ Beatty, NV

Speaker: Wally G.
Community Center
200 A Avenue South
Beatty, NV
(Winner Results & 50/50)

(National Park Entrance fee is each person's own responsibility)

Hotel Information

Barstow, CA

Motel 6 (760) 256-1752
Econo Lodge (760) 256-2133

Beatty, NV

Stage Coach Casino (775) 553-2419
Motel 6 (775) 553-9090

30 rooms on hold for Ride for Recovery

For room discount say "Ride for Recovery"

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Registration: _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____
(Registration includes one poker hand)

Lunch Ticket: _____ x \$8.00 = \$ _____

Additional Hand: _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____
9 Hand Special: _____ x \$30.00 = \$ _____

Event Hat: _____ x \$18.00 = \$ _____

T-Shirt: _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____
S M L XL XXL XXXL (Circle size for T-Shirt)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Tear off Registration Form & Mail with Check or Money Order to:

Victor Valley Intergroup
18888 Highway 18, Suite 107
Apple Valley, CA 92307

For More Information Contact:

Chairperson: Dave C. (760) 267-3169
CO Chairperson: Bob O. (760) 985-3462
Registration: Ron M. (760) 559-1070
CO Registration: Bill P. (760) 646-1592

Central Office: (760) 242-9292

Sponsored by:

Victor Valley Intergroup Central Office

We do together what we cant do alone!

Intergroup Minutes January 21st, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 9:35AM by Ted B., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Present were Ted. B., Chairman, Craig B., Manager, Chad F., Treasurer, Rick B., and Bill P. Secretary. Rick B read the Twelve Traditions.

Secretary's Report- Minutes of the last meeting were read by Bill P. Ted B. motioned that the minutes be accepted as read. Seconded by Chad F. Minutes were accepted.

Treasurers Report- As of Dec. 31st 2016, we have a balance of \$19,025.39 in savings, \$5,067.23 in Union Bank Checking, and total income for the month was \$4,075.26. Our total expenses were \$3,000.54 with a net income of \$1,074.72.

Manager's Report- Craig B. reported that quarterly taxes have been paid. Due to numerous customer requests, Craig will look into stocking outside meditation books. He will have more information next month.

Old Business- Elections, Bill P. was nominated for Co-Chairman of Intergroup by Craig B. Seconded by Ted B. and carried. Bill P. elected. Carl O. was nominated for secretary by Bill P. Seconded by Chad F. Carl O. elected secretary.

New Business- Chad F. stated that we need to set up a new committee to attend meetings and distribute newsletters and talk about what's going on in the Central Office.

We still need a ways and means chairman. Anyone interested please notify the Central Office.

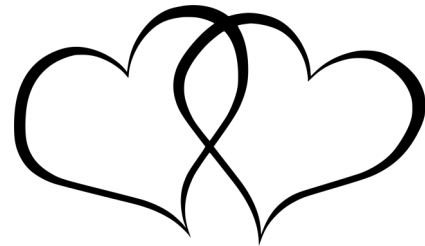
Rick B. reported that the TGIF meeting attendance is coming back up and is doing well.

CENTRAL OFFICE STATISTICS		
	Jan.	YTD
Visitors	92	92
Information Calls	158	158
12-Step Calls	2	2
CALL FORWARDNG		
Information Calls	103	103
12 Step Calls	1	1
TOTALS		
Information Calls	261	261
12 Step Calls	3	3

Congratulations to Chad F. on eight years of sobriety.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM by Ted B., who led us in the Serenity Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted By Bill P.



Life gives you a
second chance.

It's called
TOMMORROW.

If you would like to receive or send
news to the newsletter,
please contact us here:

newsletterforthefellowship@yahoo.com

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