

NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

JULY 2017

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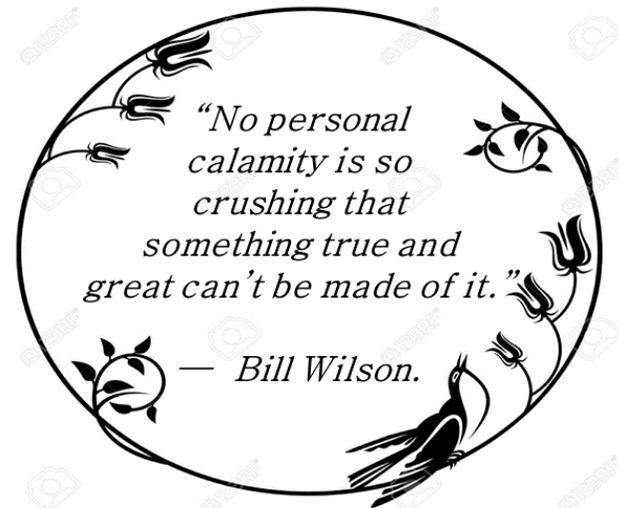
The Seventh Step Prayer

from page 76 of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

I am now willing that You should have all of me,
good and bad.

I pray that You now remove from me
every single defect of character which stands in the way
of my usefulness to You and my fellows.
Grant me strength, as I go out from here,
to do Your bidding.

Amen.



Step 7:

Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

Taken from Recovery.org, by the Editorial Staff
(October 9th, 2015)
<http://www.recovery.org/topics/step-7-aa/>

What Is the Purpose of This Step?

You cannot overcome your character flaws without humility. Too often, alcoholics are victims of pride and selfishness. During this step, you begin to practice modesty and welcome a change of attitude, which will lead to a happy life.

How Do You Complete This Step?

- Give up self-reliance for reliance on a higher power—whatever that may be to you.
- Learn to practice humility and put character-building ahead of comfort.
- Make "honesty, tolerance, and true love of man and God the daily basis of living."¹

- Accept that humility is necessary to achieve a sober and fulfilled life.

Change your perspective from a self-centered one to a humble, selfless one.

What Are Some Tips for Completing This Step?

- **Be willing to suffer and feel pain.** It's important to feel the pain that you masked with alcohol. It is a necessary step toward recovery and spiritual well-being.
- **Be patient.** You can't change your life overnight.

What Are Some Myths About Step 7?

Humility isn't necessary for recovery. You can't see your shortcomings without stripping yourself of your ego and pride. This unfiltered look into yourself allows you to develop a humble attitude and correct your moral defects.

Perspectives on Step 7

By Dominica A.

Taken from Recovery.org, by Dominica A.
(October 9th, 2015)

<http://www.recovery.org/topics/step-7-aa/>

When I think about Step 7, I think about humility, as it tends to be the central theme of this step. Humility to me means viewing myself with an honest and realistic perspective. It's NOT thinking I'm bigger than my addictions or other people. When I thought I was "all that" and had control over my life, I was living in an alternate reality, because my life—and more specifically my emotional life—was a hot mess. Then, once I entered recovery and lay down my addictions, I still had to contend with some things I wasn't crazy about, such as: Anxiety. Irritability. Anger. Depression. Shame. Regret. Judgment. Envy. And more.

All of the previous steps led me to the importance of Step 7 and surrendering my will and life over to my Higher Power, asking for help once again. It's pretty humbling to ask a Higher Power to remove shortcomings. It's saying:

You know, I really can't do this on my own. Like, this guilt that plagues my mind. It's slowly killing me and I can't let go on my own. Will you help me?

Honestly, I was ready to live a life of humility. I'd had enough of trying to do it on my own, because on my own I usually ended up in a mess. For this step, I did ask my Higher Power to remove my shortcomings. Were they all removed at once? No. What I did notice, though, was that as I consciously invited my Higher Power to remove my shortcomings each day, they were less and less evident. For example, one of my shortcomings was anger when things didn't go my way. I would react with anger or pout like a little girl when I didn't get my way. This was not attractive to say the least. So, when I began working Step 7, I asked for my Higher Power to remove this anger and help me stay calm, cool, and collected when the universe didn't cater to my every desire.

The result? I eventually learned how to observe things through a different lens. A lens that was not filtering my life through the perspective of a lonely, disheartened, scared little girl, but rather from a mature, healed, lovable adult. It's not some magic trick that our Higher Power does to remove our shortcomings (though some are removed miraculously quickly). We gradually learn how to let go, overcome, manage, control, and so on when it comes to shortcomings. It's a journey of self-love and insights on life! Partner with your Higher Power in Step 7, with the intent to give your "stuff" to whatever that power is. You do the legwork and trust your Higher Power for the rest.

I think you'll see that over time, you'll notice less of your shortcomings (harsh reactions, fear, pride, shame, jealousy, anger, envy, greed, etc.) popping up and more positive things popping up instead, such as love, acceptance, humility, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control, etc.

A.A.'s Greatest Danger - Rigidity

1986 GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE CLOSING TALK

by Bob Pearson

Taken from:

Barefootsworld.net, <http://www.barefootsworld.net/aa-rigidity.html>

At the closing brunch on Saturday morning, Bob Pearson (G.S.O. senior adviser), who was retiring, gave a powerful and inspiring closing talk (excerpted below) to the 36th Conference.

This is my 18th General Service Conference - the first two as a director of the Grapevine and A.A.W.S., followed by four as a general service trustee. In 1972, I rotated out completely, only to be called back two years later as general manager of G.S.O., the service job I held until late 1984. Since the 1985 International Convention, of course, I have been senior adviser. This is also my last Conference, so this is an emotionally charged experience.

I wish I had time to express my thanks to everyone to whom I am indebted for my sobriety and for the joyous life with which I have been blessed for the past nearly 25 years. But since this is obviously impossible, I will fall back on the Arab saying that Bill quoted in his last message, "I thank you for your lives." For without your lives, I most certainly would have no life at all, much less the incredibly rich life I have enjoyed.

Let me offer my **thoughts about A.A.'s future**. I have no truck with those **bleeding deacons** who decry every change and view the state of the Fellowship with pessimism and alarm. On the contrary, from my nearly quarter-century's perspective, I see A.A. as larger, healthier, more dynamic, faster growing, more global, more service-minded, more back-to-basics, and more spiritual - by far - than when I came through the doors of my first meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, just one year after the famous Long Beach Convention. A.A. has flourished beyond the wildest dreams of founding members, though perhaps not of Bill himself, for he was truly visionary.

Continued on page 4.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF MAY 31st, 2017

	BALANCE	
Savings	\$ 20,025.84	
CD	\$ 10,030.04	
Cash in Union Checking	\$ 7,261.82	

INCOME	MAY	Y.T.D.
Group Donations	\$ 1,723.02	\$ 8,568.51
Birthdays	\$ 72.00	\$ 91.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 24.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 258.00	\$ 1,405.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 797.72	\$ 3,466.49
Literature	\$ 1,183.22	\$ 6,692.87
Credit Card Fee	\$ 14.00	\$ 72.00
Coffee Kitty	\$ 13.97	\$ 81.63
Faithful Fivers	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Womens Banquet	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Buck of the Month	\$ -	\$ 5.76
Ride for Recovery	\$ -	\$ 3,484.00
Mountain AA Conference	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 25.00	\$ 76.00
INCOME FOR THE MONTH	\$ 4,356.93	\$ 24,547.26
EXPENSES		
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 1,800.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 133.26	\$ 638.68
Utilities	\$ 60.15	\$ 349.26
Manager Salary	\$ 1,270.43	\$ 5,388.15
Charter	\$ 148.68	\$ 507.94
Printing	\$ 55.33	\$ 481.08
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 306.64	\$ 1,038.45
Chips and Medallions	\$ 128.85	\$ 1,691.30
Literature	\$ -	\$ 4,699.60
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ -	\$ 217.23
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 792.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ -	\$ 2,156.57
Freedom Financial (tax prep)	\$ -	\$ 120.00
Credit Card Fee	\$ 33.07	\$ 123.69
Liability Insurance (Hub Int.)	\$ -	\$ 575.00
Alarm	\$ -	\$ 96.00
Ride For Recovery	\$ -	\$ 360.95
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 2,496.41	\$ 21,035.90
NET INCOME	\$ 1,860.52	\$ 3,511.36
APPLE VALLEY		
Keep it Simple	\$ 22.00	\$ 112.00
How It Works		\$ 247.94
Simple Changes	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 16.00	\$ 266.50
Front & Center	\$ 127.02	\$ 589.37
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 50.00	\$ 309.47
Nuts and Fruits		\$ 60.00
Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk.		\$ 153.00

Sun. Just for Today		\$ 50.00
Thursday Mens Stag		\$ 100.00
Primary Purpose	\$ 120.00	\$ 180.00
Anonymous Group	\$ 116.00	\$ 385.00
Wed. Womens Participation		\$ 20.60
Coffee Talk	\$ 12.00	\$ 116.00
Original Big Book		\$ 100.00
Barstow		
Los Coyotes Mens Group		\$ 390.00
Mon. Mens Meeting- Vets Home		\$ 10.00
Friday Nite Live		\$ 400.00
Our Primary Purpose		\$ 100.00
Wed. Meeting-Vets Home	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Ft. Irwin		
New Horizons II	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
HESPERIA		
Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 1,035.00
Hesperia Umbrella Group	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,380.00
Wed. Mens Stag	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
LUCERNE VALLEY		
Newberry Springs		
Mon. 12 x 12		\$ 60.00
Sat. Breakfast Club		\$ 100.00
Phelan		
Tues. Phelan Sober	\$ -	\$ 60.00
Silver Lakes		
No Valid Complaints		\$ 145.00
Thursday Big Book		\$ 80.00
Sat. Nite Serenity Group		\$ 112.00
VICTORVILLE		
Tumbleweed Group		\$ 65.94
Friday Night Speaker Meeting		\$ 30.69
Wrightwood		
Wed. Mens Stag		\$ 360.00
Mon. Womens	\$ -	\$ 50.00
9 a.m. Sun. Open Participation	\$ -	\$ 120.00
Happy Birthday To:		
Sara L.	\$ 43.00	
Bill P	\$ 29.00	
Faithful Fivers		
Nick P	\$ 20.00	

I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause. No, it will not be because of:

- treatment centers or
- professionals in the field, or
- non-Conference-approved literature, or
- young people, or
- the dually-addicted, or even
- the "druggies" trying to come to our closed meetings.

If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these and any other problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. **It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense.**

If you were to ask me what is the **greatest danger** facing A.A. today, I would have to answer:

- the **growing rigidity**;
- the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions;
- pressure for G.S.O. to "enforce" our Traditions;
- screening alcoholics at closed meetings;
- prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e., "banning books";
- laying more and more rules on groups and members.

And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill, in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met.

Bob Pearson (senior adviser)

Upcoming Events

Birthday Meeting and Open House

Lucerne Valley—The Place

July 26th, 2017: 6:00 p.m. Potluck, 7:00 p.m. Speaker

Birthday Meetings at the Place will now be the last Wednesday of the Month.

The Place

St. Paul's Catholic Church 8973 Mesa Road, Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

CENTRAL OFFICE STATISTICS			
	June	Y.T.D.	
Visitors	68	442	
Information Calls	128	730	
12-Step Calls	1	8	
CALL FORWARDNG			
Information Calls	118	660	
12 Step Calls	1	9	
TOTALS			
Information Calls	246	1390	
12 Step Calls	2	17	

14th Annual Mountain AA Conference with Al-Anon Participation A Search for Serenity

Friday, August 18th to
Sunday, August 20th, 2017

Includes: Delicious Gourmet Luncheon, Five Main AA Speakers, Saturday Night Ice Cream Social, Saturday & Sunday "12 Step Yoga" with Molly B. (all levels welcome) Saturday Morning Pancake breakfast, Long-Timers Meeting, AA Marathon Meetings, Souvenirs

Big Bear Performing Arts Center
39707 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

www.MountainAAConference.com

No Intergroup meeting was held for the month of June.

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