

NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

MAR. 2017

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3rd Step Prayer:

"God, I offer myself to thee - to build with me and do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always!"

(The Big Book, 63:2 original manuscript)

Upcoming Events



Death Valley
11th Annual Poker Run
March 31st and April 1st, 2017
All vehicles are welcome
Victor Valley Central Office

Save the Date!

Annual A.A. High Desert Convention
will be held June 9, 10, 11 2017
Holiday Inn

On Tradition Three

*"The only requirement for A.A. membership is
a desire to stop drinking."*

Editorial by Bill W.
A.A. Grapevine, February 1948
Taken from: <http://www.barefootsworld.net/aatrad3-gv-feb48.html>

"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together

for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

This is a sweeping statement indeed; it takes in a lot of territory. Some people might think it too idealistic to be practical. It tells every alcoholic in the world that he may become, and remain, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous *so long as he says so*. In short, Alcoholics Anonymous has no membership rule.

Why is this so? Our answer is simple and practical. Even in self protection, we do not wish to erect the slightest barrier between ourselves and the brother alcoholic who still suffers. We know that society has been demanding that he conform to its laws and conventions. But the essence of his alcoholic malady is the fact that he has been unable or unwilling to conform either to the laws of man or God. If he is anything, the sick alcoholic is a rebellious nonconformist. How well we understand that; every member of Alcoholics Anonymous was once a rebel himself. Hence we cannot offer to meet him at any half-way mark. We must enter the dark cave where he is and show him that we understand. We realize that he is altogether too weak and confused to jump hurdles. If we raise obstacles, he might stay away and perish. He might be denied his priceless opportunity.

So when he asks, "Are there any conditions?" we joyfully reply, "No, not a one." When skeptically he comes back saying, "But certainly there must be things that I have to do and believe," we quickly answer, "In Alcoholics Anonymous there are no *musts*." Cynically, perhaps, he then inquires, "What is this all going to cost me?" We are able to laugh and say, "Nothing at all, there are no fees and dues." Thus, in a brief hour, is our friend disarmed of his suspicion and rebellion.

Continued on page 2

His eyes begin to open on a new world of friendship and understanding. Bankrupt idealist that he has been, his ideal is no longer a dream. After years of lonely search it now stands revealed. The reality of Alcoholics Anonymous bursts upon him. For Alcoholics Anonymous is saying, "We have something priceless to give, if only you will receive." That is all. But to our new friend, it is everything. Without more ado, he becomes one of us. Our membership tradition does contain, however, one vitally important qualification. That qualification relates to the use of our name, Alcoholics Anonymous.

We believe that any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Here our purpose is clear and unequivocal. For obvious reasons we wish the name Alcoholics Anonymous to be used only in connection with straight A.A. activities. One can think of no A.A. member who would like, for example, to see the formation of "dry" A.A. groups, "wet" A.A. groups, Republican A.A. groups, Communist A.A. groups. Few, if any, would wish our groups to be designated by religious denominations. We cannot lend the A.A. name, even indirectly to other activities, however worthy. If we do so we shall become hopelessly compromised and divided. We think that A.A. should offer its experience to the whole world for whatever use can be made of it. But not its name. Nothing could be more certain.

Let us of A.A. therefore resolve that we shall always be inclusive, and never exclusive, offering all we have to all men save our title. May all barriers be thus leveled, may our unity thus be preserved. And may God grant us a long life --and a useful one!

Bill W., The A.A. Grapevine, February, 1948



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How Many Ways Can You Say "Hangover?"

Taken from *Alcoholics Anonymous: 80 Years—Happy, Joyous and Free*
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A.A. initially spread the world by word of mouth, but soon thereafter came the printed page for alcoholics hungry to understand the tenants of the program. Early on, Bill W., and others in the Fellowship came to the conclusion that, as Bill later wrote, "a society like ours ought to control and publish its own literature." Today, Alcoholics Anonymous Worldwide Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S.), the publishing arm of A.A.'s General Service board, preserves the integrity and continuity of literature—the Big Book, The Twelve and Twelve, Living Sober, and other essential A.A. texts—helping oversee translations into languages as disparate as the Twi language of Ghana and Rarotongan, the language of the Cook Islands.

Often translations arise locally, and then it becomes the job of A.A.W.S. To make sure they are accurate and consistent. For instance, during the 1960s, '70s, and early '80s, as A.A.'s Spanish-speaking membership grew quickly, a number of translations of the Big Book (*Alocoholicos Anonimos*) undertaken independently in several Spanish-Speaking countries were in circulation. But the adaptations frequently disagreed and, moreover, contained number regionalisms Such as the word "hangover": Mexicans spoke of their *cruda*; Colombians, their *guayabo*, Central Americans, their *goma*, and Ecuadorians, their *chuchaque*. A.A.W.S. translators finally settled on *Resaca*, which also means "undertow." Translations of the Big Book and other A.A. literature often takes years to perfect, but, in the end, it's worth it, since getting it right means saving the lives of alcoholics in countries all over the world.

Things We Cannot Change

*Helen Mc of Apple Valley,
passed away with 35 years
of sobriety in January.*

*She will be greatly
missed.*



FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF JAN 31, 2017

	BALANCE	
Savings	\$ 18,025.39	
Cash in Union Checking	\$ 5,992.13	
INCOME	JANUARY	Y.T.D.
Group Donations	\$ 2,409.38	\$ 2,409.38
Birthdays	\$ 19.00	\$ 19.00
Memorials	\$ 24.00	\$ 24.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 332.00	\$ 332.00
Newsletter	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 601.11	\$ 601.11
Literature	\$ 1,554.70	\$ 1,554.70
Credit Card Fee	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Coffee Kitty	\$ 19.81	\$ 19.81
Buck of the Month	\$ 5.76	\$ 5.76
Ride for Recovery	\$ 116.00	\$ 116.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 13.00	\$ 13.00
INCOME FOR THE MONTH	\$ 5,119.76	\$ 5,119.76
EXPENSES		
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 360.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 121.32	\$ 121.32
Utilities	\$ 79.58	\$ 79.58
Manager Salary	\$ 1,029.72	\$ 1,029.72
Charter	\$ 101.26	\$ 101.26
Printing	\$ 55.33	\$ 55.33
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 177.04	\$ 177.04
Chips and Medallions	\$ 294.55	\$ 294.55
Literature	\$ 1,679.48	\$ 1,679.48
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ 67.47	\$ 67.47
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ 326.00	\$ 326.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ 1,081.28	\$ 1,081.28
Freedom Financial (tax prep)	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Credit Card Fee	\$ 26.70	\$ 26.70
Alarm		\$ -
Ride For Recovery	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 5,459.73	\$ 5,459.73
NET INCOME	\$ (339.97)	\$ (339.97)
APPLE VALLEY		
Keep it Simple	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
How It Works	\$ 65.56	\$ 65.56
Simple Changes	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 70.01	\$ 70.01
Front & Center	\$ 166.81	\$ 166.81
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
Nuts and Fruits	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk.	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00
Sun. Just for Today	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Thursday Mens Stag	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Primary Purpose	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Barstow		
Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Mon. Mens Meeting- Vets Home	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00

Ft. Irwin		
HESPERIA		
Back to Basics	\$ 536.00	\$ 536.00
Hesperia Umbrella Group	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
LUCERNE VALLEY		
Newberry Springs		
Phelan		
Silver Lakes		
No Valid Complaints	\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00
VICTORVILLE		
Tumbleweed Group	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Wrightwood		
Wed. Mens Stag	\$ 180.00	\$ 180.00
Mon. Womens	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
In Memory of:		
Barbara G by Les P	\$ 24.00	
Buck of the month		
Frank	\$ 5.76	
Happy Birthday to:		
Wayne s	\$ 19.00	



" Honey, the wreckage of your past is back."

Cartoon Taken From:
AA Grapevine, <http://www.aagrapevine.org/cartoon-winners>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF FEB 28, 2017

	BALANCE	
Savings	\$ 18,525.39	
Cash in Union Checking	\$ 5,030.62	
INCOME	FEBRUARY	Y.T.D.
Group Donations	\$ 1,418.73	\$ 3,828.11
Birthdays	\$ -	\$ 19.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 24.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 257.00	\$ 589.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 805.49	\$ 1,406.60
Literature	\$ 1,714.46	\$ 3,269.16
Credit Card Fee	\$ 13.00	\$ 28.00
Coffee Kitty	\$ 35.75	\$ 55.56
Buck of the Month	\$ -	\$ 5.76
Ride for Recovery	\$ 710.00	\$ 826.00
Mountain AA Conference	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 13.00	\$ 26.00
INCOME FOR THE MONTH	\$ 5,267.43	\$ 10,387.19
EXPENSES		
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 720.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 110.09	\$ 231.41
Utilities	\$ 79.17	\$ 158.75
Manager Salary	\$ 1,029.28	\$ 2,059.00
Charter	\$ 102.01	\$ 203.27
Printing	\$ 126.00	\$ 181.33
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 168.04	\$ 345.08
Chips and Medallions	\$ 283.15	\$ 577.70
Literature	\$ 2,022.09	\$ 3,701.57
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ -	\$ 67.47
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 326.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ -	\$ 1,081.28
Freedom Financial (tax prep)	\$ -	\$ 60.00
Credit Card Fee	\$ 29.17	\$ 55.87
Liability Insurance (Hub Int.)	\$ 575.00	\$ 575.00
Alarm		\$ -
Ride For Recovery	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 5,159.00	\$ 10,618.73
NET INCOME	\$ 108.43	\$ (231.54)
APPLE VALLEY		
Keep it Simple		\$ 50.00
How It Works	\$ 51.00	\$ 116.56
Simple Changes		\$ 100.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 38.00	\$ 108.01
Front & Center	\$ 82.37	\$ 249.18
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 49.36	\$ 139.36
Nuts and Fruits		\$ 60.00
Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk.		\$ 81.00
Sun. Just for Today		\$ 50.00
Thursday Mens Stag		\$ 50.00
Primary Purpose		\$ 60.00
Anonymous Group	\$ 143.00	\$ 143.00
Coffee Talk	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00

Original Big Book	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Barstow		
Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
Mon. Mens Meeting- Vets Home		\$ 10.00
Friday Nite Live	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Our Primary Purpose	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Ft. Irwin		
HESPERIA		
Back to Basics	\$ 35.00	\$ 571.00
Hesperia Umbrella Group	\$ 360.00	\$ 960.00
LUCERNE VALLEY		
Newberry Springs		
Phelan		
Silver Lakes		
No Valid Complaints	\$ -	\$ 65.00
Thursday Big Book	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00
VICTORVILLE		
Tumbleweed Group	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Wrightwood		
Wed. Mens Stag	\$ -	\$ 180.00
Mon. Womens	\$ -	\$ 50.00
9 a.m. Sun. Open Participation	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00



All I needed to be, have, or do was a desire to stop drinking.

I belonged if I said so...PERIOD. *They couldn't even question my desire to quit drinking!!!*

But they didn't have to... John Barleycorn was undefeated heavy weight champion, whipped my butt time & again, and I kept volunteering for rematches...Until AA.

It was fortunate for me AA experience had been hammered out our Singleness of Purpose long before I came to need the Hand of Alcoholics Anonymous, as quite frankly, there was little else I was capable of 'buying' other than Sobriety.

It was not only my 'state of mind' that qualified as savage. My whole demeanor reeked of the twists Mr. Hyde had performed behind that First Drink. I hated the Guy in the Mirror for what he had done & become behind the first drink. I wanted him to die, and no one else's life was safe near me.

At first, I hated those happy, smiling alkies in the early meetings, and was none too shy about telling them so. Yet, some part of me recognized I needed them...they knew the way out, they had an answer.

Had there been any other 'requirement' to AA, I surely would have stayed a shivering denizen in King Alcohol's mad realm.

Today, blessed with some 24 hours, I need to guard against personal opinions or bias creeping in when someone has a different background than mine, or even when, after some time, they aren't doing enough or as much as I think, knowing that their life, like mine, hinges on the fact

"that we must never compel anyone to pay anything, believe anything, or conform to anything." (12x12, pg. 141)

I need never forget where I came from, nor of my debt to pass it on to others no matter who and where they come from. I owe my life to those old drunks who kept the AA door *WIDE open*, so a guy like me could have a second chance at life. And its a GOOD life.

CENTRAL OFFICE STATISTICS		Feb.	FINAL YTD
Visitors		81	173
Information Calls		87	245
12-Step Calls		0	2
CALL FORWARDNG			
Information Calls		69	172
12 Step Calls		1	2
TOTALS			
Information Calls		156	417
12 Step Calls		1	4

Practice These Principles Checklist

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

** These questions were originally published in the AA Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. While they were originally intended primarily for individual use, many AA groups have since used them as a basis for wider discussion.

There was no Intergroup Meeting held for the month of February.

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

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