

# NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

OCT 2016

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*"Honesty with ourselves and others gets us sober,  
but it is tolerance that keeps us that way."*  
— Bill Wilson.

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## The Beauty of Tradition Ten— Outside Debates Stay Outside

Reprinted from *No Booze News*, October 2016 Newsletter

Sobriety in AA is the first thing in my life that has really worked. I'm especially grateful for Tradition Ten, where it is suggested that AA groups never get involved in the messy business of debating outside issues. The wonderful "extra" implied by this Tradition is that I, as an individual recovering alcoholic, am free to simply enjoy sobriety in AA, without having to defend my position on any outside issue.

You see, I grew up in the sixties. I lived with my parents (one alcoholic, one social drinker) who were closely associated with a small, left-wing, private college in the Northeast. It was a school where expressing your opinions in public was very important. On campus, where I hung out as a 13-year-old, I heard lots of angry rhetoric about Vietnam, civil rights, and a lot else. My parents brought the same kind of political anger home with them, and challenged me to come up with informed positions on the same issues. I was only an eighth grader, but I was expected to engage in adult-style discussions. If I didn't have an opinion on the issue at hand, I was considered a failure or a nonthinker.

Looking back, it was probably great training for a future alcoholic. I got very good at hiding the things I was truly ashamed of (especially the amount I drank), using a smoke screen of vaguely directed political opinion.

As my disease progressed, I was often broke, unem-

ployed, hungover, and in need of a place to stay. Usually, my parents would take me in, and for months at a time I'd live at home, trying to get my act together. Deep down inside I knew I was sick and crazy from booze. But at the time, dealing with it was too frightening. It was easier to engage my parents in a petty debate over some global issue beyond our control than to draw attention to the real reason I was out of work.

Today, I'm sober and grateful for what it was like, what happened, and what it's like now. I'm even grateful to my parents, who put up with me as an active alcoholic. But I'm especially grateful to the alcoholics who founded this Fellowship and gave us the guidelines by which we run our groups. Tradition Ten frees AAs to concentrate on what we have in common— recovery, unity, service— rather than waste time debating outside issues.

Matt F., Brooklyn, N.Y. , CA

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## *Things We Cannot Change*

*Kathleen C. of Apple Valley  
died sober with 18 years last  
month*

*Vince M. of Hesperia died with over  
29 years sober*

*Floyd Y. of Hesperia passed away with 37  
years sober*

*They will be missed by all*

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Gratitude doesn't  
change the scenery. It  
merely washes clean the  
glass you look through  
so you can clearly see  
the colors.

Quote by Richelle E. Goodrich, *Smile Anyway: Quotes, Verse, & Grumblings for Every Day of the Year*



## The Tenth Step

*Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.*

The following text is taken from the *Tao of Recovery*,  
<http://thetaoofrecovery.com/2012/12/28/step-ten-living-the-program/>, copyright 2015

The most precise description of the Tenth Step is found in the *Big Book* of Alcoholics Anonymous which states:

*“Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear (4th Step). When these crop up (6th Step), we ask God at once to remove them (7th Step). We discuss them with someone immediately (5th Step) and make amends quickly (9th Step) if we have harmed anyone (8th Step). Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code.*

There are two critically important aspects to these instructions:

1. First, it is clear that the purpose of the 10th Step is to incorporate into our daily lives that which has been learned in working the Fourth through Ninth Steps. As above noted, the directions include ongoing inventory, consultation with trusted advisers, identification and treatment of character defects, and making amends for harms done.

- 2.

2. Second, the well-known 12-step slogan of “progress

not perfection” provides the framework from which the 10th Step is practiced. Notice that the language of both the step itself and the ensuing instructions anticipate future setbacks (or, what might be more appropriately couched as “learning opportunities”) — “when we were wrong” and “when (as opposed to ‘if’) these [character defects] crop up”. As such, while the spirit of the Tenth Step involves the turning of one’s intention toward certain virtues and ideals and acting along those lines as best we can, there must remain an understanding that attaining spiritual perfection is highly unlikely, if not impossible. And yet transformative *spiritual progress* which borders on the miraculous *is* to be expected at this point in the recovery process.

Ultimately, the work of the 10th Step provides a bulwark against the re-accumulation of resentments, self-pity, shame and irrational fears. Recovery may only be preserved and enhanced with vigilance and persistent effort. The temptation to rely on the work already done — though it has been significant and undoubtedly beneficial — must be avoided if happiness, joy, and freedom are to persist. As the *Big Book* warns:

*It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do for alcohol [not other drugs] is a subtle foe. We are not cured of alcoholism [not addiction]. What we really have is a daily reprieve contingent upon the maintenance of our spiritual condition.”*

The more we work at the first half of the 10th Step, which requires ongoing and accurate self-appraisal, the less we will need to turn to the second part of the step (making amends for harm done). Furthermore, as a practical matter, fidelity to the amends process together with an emerging moral consciousness serve as powerful reinforcement against harmful action. Sometimes the only barrier between our scorn and the tranquility of another is personal disdain for what would be the required corrective action.



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF SEPT 30, 2016

	<b>BALANCE</b>	
Savings	\$	19,524.95
Cash in Union Checking	\$	2,670.34
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>Y.T.D.</b>
Group Donations	\$ 1,128.46	\$ 10,752.13
Birthdays	\$ 65.00	\$ 331.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 23.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 257.00	\$ 3,786.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 10.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 746.75	\$ 6,230.18
Literature	\$ 939.25	\$ 9,268.65
Credit Card Fee	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00
Coffee Kitty	\$ 36.50	\$ 183.60
Buck of the Month	\$ -	\$ 29.93
Ride for Recovery	\$ -	\$ 4,639.50
Other	\$ 73.42	\$ 73.42
ICYPAA Donation	\$ 34.56	\$ 34.56
AA Mountain Conference	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Faithful Fivers	\$ -	\$ 80.00
Women's Banquet	\$ -	\$ 300.00
2016 Convention	\$ -	\$ 655.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 19.35	\$ 144.45
<b>INCOME FOR THE MONTH</b>	<b>\$ 3,317.29</b>	<b>\$ 36,858.42</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 3,240.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 132.05	\$ 1,138.25
Utilities	\$ 96.02	\$ 745.04
Manager Salary	\$ 1,027.28	\$ 9,245.52
Charter	\$ 102.13	\$ 777.87
Printing	\$ 87.64	\$ 606.52
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 125.26	\$ 2,000.26
Chips and Medallions	\$ 577.06	\$ 3,822.58
Literature	\$ -	\$ 5,911.08
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ -	\$ 377.59
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 882.00
Atty. Gen. of California	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Franchise Tax Board	\$ -	\$ 35.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ -	\$ 3,243.86
Freedom Financial (tax prep)	\$ -	\$ 215.00
Credit Card Fee	\$ 35.48	\$ 223.90
Alarm	\$ 96.00	\$ 288.00
Ride For Recovery	\$ -	\$ 635.00
Stamps	\$ -	\$ 196.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,638.92</b>	<b>\$ 33,608.47</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 678.37</b>	<b>\$ 3,249.95</b>
<b>APPLE VALLEY</b>		
Anonymous Group	\$ 115.00	\$ 1,117.22
Keep it Simple		\$ 253.00

Sunday Coffee Kitty	\$	42.00
There is a Solution	\$	222.00
Mon. 5 p.m. Open Participa- tion	\$	45.00
Wed. Womens Participation	\$	110.00
How It Works	\$ 11.00	\$ 432.58
Simple Changes	\$	175.00
Children of Chaos	\$	412.57
Questions & Answers	\$ 23.00	\$ 53.00
Front & Center	\$ 164.44	\$ 1,095.66
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 60.00	\$ 518.00
T.G.I.F.	\$ 60.00	\$ 115.82
Friday Nite Lites	\$	160.00
Monday Back to Basics	\$	155.00
Cedar Street Big Book	\$	70.00
Original Big Book	\$ 40.00	\$ 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	\$ 55.00
Primary Purpose	\$	120.00
Sunday Night Campfire	\$ 74.68	\$ 146.68
<b>Barstow</b>		
Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$	604.00
Friday Nite Live	\$	800.00
Happy Hour- Vets Home	\$ 10.34	\$ 240.34
Our Primary Purpose	\$	75.00
Into Action	\$	200.00
<b>Ft. Irwin</b>		
New Horizons II	\$ 15.00	\$ 67.95
<b>HESPERIA</b>		
Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 1,391.00
<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	\$ 100.00	\$ 190.00
Phelan Sober Group	\$ -	\$ 120.00
<b>Silver Lakes</b>		
No Valid Complaints	\$ -	\$ 130.00
4th Dimension Big Book	\$ -	\$ 50.00
Sat. Night Serenity	\$ -	\$ 90.00
<b>VICTORVILLE</b>		
Friday Speaker Meeting	\$ 50.00	\$ 130.00
Little House	\$ -	\$ 40.00
As Bill sees it	\$ -	\$ 160.00

*Financials continued from page 3*

Mixed Bag Group	\$	50.00	\$	50.00
Tumbleweed Group	\$	-	\$	10.00

**Wrightwood**

Wed. Mens Stag	\$	120.00	\$	240.00
Wed. Open Discussion	\$	180.00	\$	180.00
Mon. Womens	\$	-	\$	50.00
9a.m. Open Participation	\$	-	\$	180.00

**Happy Birthday To:**

Ron M	42
Linda H	23

<b>CENTRAL OFFICE STATISTICS</b>			
	Sept	YTD	
Visitors	88	892	
Information Calls	151	1394	
12-Step Calls	2	12	
<b>CALL FORWARDNG</b>			
Information Calls	118	1041	
12 Step Calls	3	18	
<b>TOTALS</b>			
Information Calls	269	2435	
12 Step Calls	5	30	

## Intergroup Minutes October 15th, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM Helen M. lead us in the serenity prayer. Present were: Jennifer C. al-anon, Patrick C.H&I, Carl O. associate member/HUG IG rep. Chad F. treasurer, Doug H. HUG, Helen M. Chairwoman, Ted B.Co-Chairman, Craig B. Office manager/How it Works rep.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report read by Chad F. For the month of September we had: \$19,524.95 in savings, \$2,670.40 available cash, \$3,317.29 income for month, \$2,638.92 total expenses and \$678.37 net income.

**Office Manager's Report:** Central Office had 88 Visitors, 151 information calls,. 2 twelve Step Calls. Call forwarding had 118 information Calls and three twelve step calls. We had a total of 269 information calls and five twelve step calls for the month.

Craig B. expressed his appreciation to all call forwarding volunteers.

**Meeting Directory corrections.**

Hesperia Friday Podium Meeting at the HUG changed from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Mixed Bag Victorville (V-5) meets at 8:00 PM not 5:30 PM.

Craig B. announced there is a sale on bronze medalions, buy 12 or more and save. this includes recovery and anniversary.

**H&I Report:** The H&I Roundup went well the chili was great and prizes were given for horseless rodeo. Volunteers needed for "Bridging the Gap" this includes corresponding with inmates when they get released. Patrick requested the Central Office get some " Bridging the Gap" pamphlets. For more info call Patrick at [760-684-3676](tel:760-684-3676).

**District 19 Report:** Patrick announced a play given by Dist. 19 officers. It is a traditions play it will be held at the Alano Club Nov. 5th at 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hero will be the guest speaker. Food drinks fun and free.

No old business

7th Tradition was passed

Tabling idea to inform groups about Intergroup and get the word out. About 15 groups donate out of 165, that's about 9 %.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Craig B.



**“You’re not drunk if you  
can lie on the floor without  
holding on.”**

**- Dean Martin**

### 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](mailto:newsletterforthefellowship@yahoo.com)