

# NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

DEC. 2017

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## Twelfth Step Prayer

*Dear God, Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that faith without works is dead." And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this message to other alcoholics! Provide me with the guidance and wisdom to talk with another alcoholic because I can help when no one else can. Help me secure his confidence and remember he is ill.*

*Amen. (BB 89:1)*

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## The Survival of the Saplings

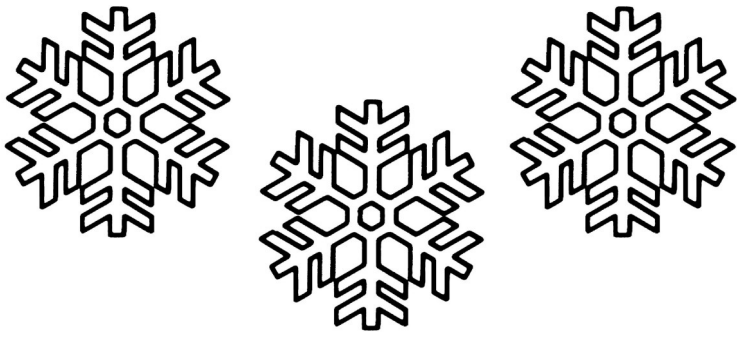
We hear so much about emotional sobriety in AA meetings, and I often wonder if the average member really understands where this all fits in. Most normal people go through life by experiencing the *good and the bad and they end up with a life that is acceptable to them*. They don't seem to be plagued by the *things the alcoholics struggle with every day of their lives*. Most of our problems are caused by our *misguided instincts* when we let them go far beyond their intended purpose. When these behaviors/habits are allowed to persist and the consequences of them are *masked by alcohol*, we *never mature emotionally* and we spend most of our efforts trying to rationalize these behaviors to the point that we start *believing our own lies*. These things don't begin when we start drinking; they start in our formative years long before we ever touch a drop of alcohol.

Our behavior when drinking appears to be more of a problem than the disease of alcoholism that causes it. The more we drink the more irresponsible we become as our disease progresses and the harder it is to explain these behaviors away. To the outside world it appears that the *drinking* is the problem and we can't deny that because drinking is **a** problem, but it is not **the** problem. We finally throw in the towel and show up in the AA meetings where we learn that *alcoholism stems from deeper rooted emotional problems*, and that we can live a somewhat normal life if we are willing to take the steps of the program, in their full implication, without any reservations. We can lead a somewhat normal life, but we can never be normal, if by normal we mean that we can drink like a normal person.

We can never drink normally because the tolerance for alcohol, or any other mind altering drug, is gone and the idea that we will ever regain control has to be smashed. We are like men who have lost their legs, they never grow new ones. It's hard for the struggling alcoholic to accept this truth but we must if we are to have any chance of being happy. We are scarred on the inside and that scarring never goes away. It can be overcome by practicing the principles of the program in their entirety but it can only be arrested, *never cured*.

To explain this in simple terms, let's say that we plant a row of *saplings* and shortly after they have taken root, one of them is trampled and bent over onto the ground. It may still survive if it receives water and nourishment. *If it is not straitened up immediately* and if it is *allowed to grow crooked*, it will still grow into an adult tree but it will *never be strait like the other trees around it*. We can prune it and trim it and decorate it, and make it look good, but *it will always be damaged*. Like that crooked sapling, our sobriety is contingent upon the maintenance of our *spiritual* condition. *We can live a life that is somewhat normal and sometimes a much happier life than we would, had we never become an alcoholic* in the first place provided, we accept our condition and all of its ramifications, and are willing to embrace the solutions that are set forth in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. As we cultivate this new approach to life, we grow stronger than ever, and as I see it, *sometimes the crookedness of a tree is what gives it its character*. I hope I never get complacent about my spiritual development and I hope I never stop growing.

*Submitted by Rick R.*



## 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.,SPENCE O.,MARVIN Y. BOB R., CLIFF S., BUSDRIVER STEVE W., MELODY R., DENNIS C., GLENN G., BRYAN J., FRED E., DEBBIE D. AND BOOTS S.

### CALL FORWARDING

KATHY G., WAYNE S., RANDY W., LINDA K.,CHAD F.,WAYNE U.,LAURA M., PAULA M., JEFF L., MELODY R., PATTY B., MARVIN Y., PATRICK C.

### WOMEN’S 12 STEP LIST

KATHY G. , BETTY B.,PAM R.,DOLLY S.,IRISH H.,DONNA H.,ERIN D., MELODY R., BECKY B., MARLENE C., KIM. KIM O., CHERI L.,PAM W., DEBRA H.,LINDA H.,CAROL R.,ANGIE A.,ANNA MAY S.,ANGELA J.

### MEN’S 12 STEP LIST

SPENCE O.,SAM D., CRAIG B., VITO M.,JIM R., JOHN W., TOM H., BOB O., JOE H.,CRAIG N.,JESSE G., BUSDRIVER STEVE W., LUCKY MIKE.,JOHN P.,DOUG H.,ED L., JEFF L.,JOHN T., CARL O., STEVE C., JOE B., RANDY W.,PATRICK C.,RICHARD T., ED H., PETE T.,GREG F.,GARY M.,LARRY S.

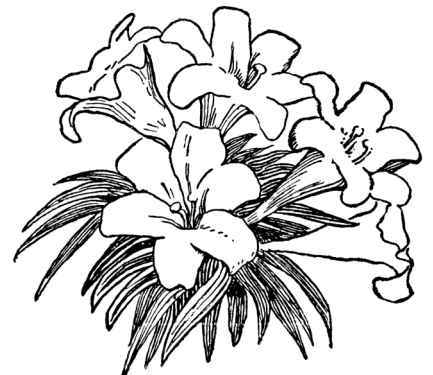
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN TED B.  
CO-CHAIR BILL P.  
TREASURER CHAD F.  
SECRETARY DOUG H.

### NEWSLETTER JULIA W.

### WEBMASTER JIM F.

**\*\* It was an honor and privilege to have Bus Driver Steve volunteering at your Central Office for these many years. He loved carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.**



FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2017		
	<b>BALANCE</b>	
Savings	\$ 18,526.76	
CD	\$ 10,037.64	
Cash in Union Checking	\$ 6,942.47	
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>Y.T.D.</b>
Group Donations	\$ 1,746.77	\$ 18,134.91
Birthdays	\$ 20.00	\$ 353.00
Memorials	\$ -	\$ 24.00
P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members)	\$ 283.00	\$ 3,160.00
Newsletter	\$ -	\$ 30.00
Chips and Medallions	\$ 729.49	\$ 8,361.81
Literature	\$ 1,560.03	\$ 15,720.90
Credit Card Fee	\$ 16.00	\$ 166.00
Coffee Kitty	\$ 20.25	\$ 202.53
Faithful Fivers		\$ 85.31
Womens Banquet	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Buck of the Month	\$ 7.68	\$ 59.56
2017 High Desert Convention	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Reimbursement/ Refund	\$ -	\$ 43.00
Ride for Recovery	\$ -	\$ 3,484.00
Mountain AA Conference	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Intergroup 7th Tradition	\$ 19.00	\$ 140.00
<b>INCOME FOR THE MONTH</b>	<b>\$ 4,402.22</b>	<b>\$ 51,515.02</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Rent	\$ 360.00	\$ 3,960.00
C.A.M. Charges	\$ 140.12	\$ 1,397.38
Utilities	\$ 56.41	\$ 861.86
Manager Salary	\$ 1,190.08	\$ 12,528.63
Charter	\$ 103.88	\$ 1,120.05
Printing	\$ 55.33	\$ 871.73
Security/Maintenance/Office	\$ 166.62	\$ 2,491.70
Chips and Medallions	\$ 359.43	\$ 4,559.73
Literature	\$ 1,754.80	\$ 13,453.20
Payroll Tax State (EDD)	\$ -	\$ 483.16
Board of Equalization (sales tax)	\$ -	\$ 1,748.00
Federal Payroll Tax	\$ -	\$ 4,585.45
Freedom Financial (tax prep)	\$ -	\$ 180.00
Credit Card Fee	\$ 30.05	\$ 245.62
Professional Services	\$ -	\$ 260.00
Liability Insurance (Hub Int.)	\$ -	\$ 575.00
Alarm	\$ -	\$ 384.00
Ride For Recovery	\$ -	\$ 360.95
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,216.72</b>	<b>\$ 50,066.46</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 185.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,448.56</b>
<b>APPLE VALLEY</b>		
Keep it Simple		\$ 160.83
How It Works	\$ 58.75	\$ 645.19
Simple Changes	\$ 75.00	\$ 275.00
Children of Chaos	\$ 111.00	\$ 762.56
Front & Center	\$ 186.30	\$ 1,486.23
Saturday Speaker Meeting	\$ 24.72	\$ 624.79

Nuts and Fruits		\$ 78.00
Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk.		\$ 153.00
Sun. Just for Today		\$ 50.00
Thursday Mens Stag		\$ 150.00
Primary Purpose		\$ 180.00
Anonymous Group	\$ 133.00	\$ 985.00
Wed. Womens Participation	\$ 60.00	\$ 116.60
Questions and Answers		\$ 30.00
Coffee Talk	\$ 16.00	\$ 168.00
Campfire Group		\$ 160.28
7 pm Monday Big Book		\$ 27.00
There is a solution		\$ 80.00
Original Big Book		\$ 320.00
Cedar Street Big Book		\$ 54.00
<b>Barstow</b>		
Los Coyotes Mens Group	\$ 40.00	\$ 720.00
Mon. Mens Meeting- Vets Home		\$ 10.00
Friday Nite Live	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,200.00
Our Primary Purpose		\$ 200.00
Wed. Meeting-Vets Home		\$ 130.00
Womens Rule 62- Vets Home	\$ -	\$ 25.00
Barstow Desert Group	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.00
<b>Ft. Irwin</b>		
New Horizons II		\$ 20.00
<b>Helendale</b>		
4th Dimension Big Book		\$ 100.00
<b>HESPERIA</b>		
Back to Basics	\$ -	\$ 1,790.00
Hesperia Umbrella Group	\$ 600.00	\$ 4,480.00
Wed. Mens Stag		\$ 60.00
<b>LUCERNE VALLEY</b>		
<b>Newberry Springs</b>		
Mon. 12 x 12		\$ 60.00
Sat. Breakfast Club		\$ 200.00
<b>Phelan</b>		
Tues. Phelan Sober		\$ 145.00
Big Book Study	\$ 60.00	\$ 120.00
<b>Silver Lakes</b>		
No Valid Complaints	\$ 65.00	\$ 285.00
Thursday Big Book		\$ 80.00
Sat. Nite Serenity Group		\$ 262.00
<b>VICTORVILLE</b>		
Tumbleweed Group		\$ 191.80
4PM Big Book Study		\$ 15.00
Friday Night Speaker Meeting	\$ 10.00	\$ 40.69
Mixed Bag Group		\$ 100.00
Little House Group		\$ 36.64

<b>Wrightwood</b>		
Wed. Mens Stag		\$ 720.00
Mon. Womens		\$ 135.50
12 X 12 HWY. 2 RGP		\$ 36.00
9 a.m. Sun. Open Participation		\$ 478.80
<b>Buck of the month</b>		
Harold H	\$ 7.68	
<b>Happy Birthday to:</b>		
Sam D	\$ 20.00	

## Intergroup Meeting Notes November 18th, 2017

Meeting called to order at 9:35 by Ted. B.

Present were Ted B, Craig B., Randy P., Brian J, Bill, P. and Doug H.

Ted led us in the serenity prayer and Randy read the 12 Traditions.

Minutes from the last meeting in September were read and accepted as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report:** Most recent financial statement was read and indicated an income of \$2844.08 Expenses of \$4589.95 with a net decrease of \$1745.87. Quarterly taxes have been paid.

**District Report:** The traditions play went well, and there was plenty of food

**H and I Report:** All panels are covered except the Federal Women's and Men's Prisons. Pine Ridge in Lucerne Valley has closed. There will be an H and I "event" in December at the Alano Club

**Webmaster Report:** None

**Newsletter:** Recent corrections were made. The Newsletter is soliciting Bus driver Steve stories and memories.

**Office Manager Report:**

62 visits 125 information calls 0 12 step calls  
 Call Forwarding 108 information calls  
 1 12 step calls Total  
 233 total calls 1 12 total step calls

<b>CENTRAL OFFICE</b>		
STATISTICS	NOV.	Y.T.D.
Visitors	72	851
Information Calls	113	1333
12-Step Calls	2	12
<b>CALL FORWARDNG</b>		
Information Calls	76	1160
12 Step Calls	2	17
<b>TOTALS</b>		
Information Calls	189	2493
12 Step Calls	4	29

All shifts are filled but the 12 step phone list needs more members in all areas.

We made a large literature purchase to cover the large H and I purchases.

The Office will be closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

**Old Business:** Purchase of a new (or rebuilt) computer is still in progress and two sources are being pursued.

**New Business.** John Wood is improving and friends have started a GoFundMe page to assist Pamela in visiting and caring for him

Meeting adjourned with the Serenity Prayer at 10AM

*Respectfully Submitted  
Doug H., Secretary*

### REMINDERS FROM CENTRAL OFFICE

**The Central Office will be closed:**

Monday, December 25th—Christmas  
 Monday, January 1st—New Year's Day

**When Making Contributions to Central Office:**

Make checks payable to Victor Valley Intergroup, not AA or just Central Office, and enclose group or Meeting's Name.

Ex. How it Works—Apple Valley, Not Group Numbers.

Thank you.

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