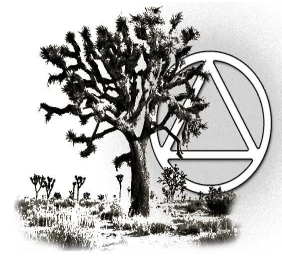


NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

NOV.—DEC. 2013

Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.
18888 Highway 18, Suite 107
Apple Valley, CA 92307
Telephone: 760-242-9292; Email: vvigco_aa@yahoo.com;
Web site: www.victorvalleyaa.org



I Am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere, Reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. to always be there. And for that: I am responsible.

It's that Time of Year . . . Again!

It is hard to believe another year has come and is just about over. However, this gives me the perfect opportunity to say a heartfelt "Thank YOU" to all of those who made 2013 an extremely successful year. Without the continued support of the volunteers who work office shifts and do call forwarding, our telephones would have gone unanswered, and the Fellowship would have lost many opportunities for Twelfth Step when a newcomer is steered to a meeting in their area.

Also, I along with the Board of Directors, would like to take this occasion to thank all of you who committed to, and donated to, P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. and to all the Groups who supported your Central Office with your monthly donations. You saw the need, you answered the call, and because of that we were able to get ourselves partially out of the financial morass we found ourselves in. In this economy we know it truly came from your hearts.

Thank you needs to go out, also, to the Board of Directors, the Intergroup Representatives, and our Service Committees who have continued your support throughout the year. I know it isn't always easy getting out of bed early on a Saturday morning to get to the office, or to pull off a successful fundraiser, but I want each of you to know how appreciated you are.

So, with all that being said, I will thank all of you for allowing me to be of service for another year. It has been an honor and a privilege. Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Sober New Year!

In sobriety,

Craig B., Office Manager

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Mike E.
Bill P.
Bob R.
Barb E.
Mark C.
Don O.
Joey R.
Sam D.
Julie D.
Steve W.
Craig B.
Ron M.
Cliff S.
Spencer O.
Andrew S.

CALL-FORWARDING

Wayne S.
Chad F.
Betty B.
Laura J.
Steve M.
Jeff A.
Wayne U.
Ruby C.
Susan B.
Kathy G.
Joey R.
David
Linda C.
Tom K.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Doug H.	Chairman
Helen H.	Co-Chairman
Chad F.	Treasurer
Ted B.	Secretary
Bill P.	Associate Member
Joey R.	Ways and Means

*Our real purpose is to fit
ourselves to be of maximum
service to God and the
people around us.*

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 77

Minutes of the Intergroup Meeting 19 October 13

The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. by Doug H., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Richard B. read the Twelve Traditions. In attendance were Doug H., Jim F., Betty B., Craig B., Helen M., Richard B., Darby G., Bill P., Ted B., and Sam D. Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report: In Chad F.'s absence, Bill P. gave the report. As of Sept. 30, 2013, there was a balance of \$7,949.61 in savings, \$7,102.50 in the C.D., and \$7008.89 in checking. Income for the month of September was \$2,403.47, with total expensed being \$2,618.64. This came to a negative balance of <215.17> before literature. September literature sales were \$1,215.01, with literature purchases being \$181.69. Total September literature sales were \$1,033.32. The net September income was \$818.15. In September 16 people contributed \$589.00 to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. The Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Webmaster's Report: Jim F. gave the report. Jim thanked Bill P. for straightening out part of the Webpage. To date the webpage (victorvalleyaa.org) as received 5,325 visits.

Office Manager's Report: Craig B. reported that there were 89 visitors to Central Office in Sept. There were 166 information calls and zero 12 Step calls. There were 136 [information calls to call forwarding] and two 12 Step calls. The [totals were 302 information calls and two 12 Step calls]. There is an opening for call forwarding for every other Friday, 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. If interested please call Craig [at the office]. Nobody, to date, has called Craig to be put on the Twelve Step List, [or for alternates to fill in at the office]. There is a need [for names for the 12 Step list for the entire High Desert]. A.A. World Services is going to publish a reproduction of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Pre-orders are going to be accepted in November 2013 with the shipping date being April 2014. The cost will be \$12.00 the tax. Central Office will be purchasing [new] Grapevine publications, especially [No Matter What].

Old Business: Central Office is making progress to put the newsletter on-line. Betty B. will be announcing in the November newsletter that the newsletter will be emailed starting in April 2014, hard copies will be mailed to people who have subscriptions, and there will be hard copies available at [the office]. In going to e-mail, [the office] will be able to reduce expenses. Bill P. sent an ad to the [Daily Press] regarding daily A.A. meetings. He has not heard back from the newspaper. Richard B. will follow up on getting the ad published.

New Business: Helen M. asked if there were going to be advanced tickets for sale for the Central Office fund-raising Spaghetti Dinner [on Nov. 1]. There will be no advance ticket sales. All tickets will be "at the door." Darby G. provided a run-down of the meetings in Wrightwood. Bill P. announced that the next Death Valley Ride to Recovery will be April 4—5, 2014. It is \$30.00 for preregistration and \$35.00 [the day of the event]. Craig B. and Betty B. will be attending the Office Managers' Seminar [in Palm Springs Oct. 25—27].

The next Intergroup Meeting will be Nov. 16, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.

Craig B. motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted B., Secretary

Minutes of the Intergroup Meeting 16 November 13

The meeting was opened at 9:30 a.m. by Doug H., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Bill P. read the Twelve Traditions. In attendance were Doug H., Helen M., Ted B., Craig B., Betty B., Bill P., Chad F., Jim F., Richard B., and Joey R. Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report Chad F. gave the report. As of Oct. 31, 2013, there was a balance of \$8,099.61 in savings, \$7,104.01 in the C.D., and \$4,454.79 in checking. Income for the month of October was \$2,998.05 with total expenses being \$4,008.78. This came to a negative balance of \$1,010.73 before literature. October literature sales were \$1,022.70 with purchases being \$1,919.60. Total October sales were a negative \$887.90. The net income was negative \$1,898.63. The [October balance was due to taxes and literature purchases]. In October, 18 people contributed \$694.00 to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Office Manager's Report: Craig B. reported that there were 85 visitors to Central Office in October. There were 150 information calls and one 12 Step call. There were 105 call forwarding calls and three 12 Step calls. The totals for October were 255 information calls and four 12 Step calls. Craig wondered why there was a decrease in [information] calls in relation to the previous months. Bill P. had filled in for Craig [for the first couple of weeks in November] while Craig was recovering from an operation. THANKS, BILL!!! Craig attended the Office Managers' Seminar in Palm Springs Oct. 25—27. The reproduction of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* will be titled *Anniversary Editions*. Craig said that World Services wanted people to pre-order now, but the book would not be available until April 2014. The [managers] took exception to this. Craig will not order the book until it is available. The [managers] learned how "New York" does business. Except for a few things, such as having a book store, [our Central Office is] conducting business like the "Big Guys." Craig will get information to Jim F. concerning the webpage information that World Services has. Craig will be moving \$3,500.00 to the C.D. in November.

Old Business: Betty B. apologized that the November newsletter has not been printed as yet. Joey R. stated that the A.A. ad was running in the *Daily Press*. Betty B. wanted to thank the Fellowship for her being able to attend the Office Managers' Seminar [and the opportunity or be of service]. She was secretary [of the workshop concerning on-line sales and donations].

New Business: The Death Valley Ride to Recovery (April 4—5, 2014) has a speaker. It will be Donna R. from Henderson, NV.

Ways and Means Report: Joey R. gave the report. The Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser was a success! About 65 people were in attendance and all had a great time. All food and drinks were donated. Thanks go to Pam and Jim R. who made spaghetti, meatballs, and sauce; Joey R. for Caesar salad and garlic bread; Jeff F. for soda and water; and Anonymous for the cakes (three ¼ sheets). The gross income for the fundraiser was \$451.13 with \$154.80 going for expenses. [The donation to Central Office was \$296.33]. Other fundraiser events that Joey will be looking at are a Chili Cook-off, potentially a Cake Auction, and an eight-week Horseshoe Tournament. She will keep the office posted.

Webmaster's Report: Jim F. gave the report. There have been 174 hits on the webpage for the week of November 10—16, 445 hits so far in the month of November, and 6,000 hits since Jim took over as Webmaster. This may be one of the reasons for the decline of information calls that Craig B. mentioned in [his report].

Announcements: Joey R. celebrated two years on October 6. **The next Intergroup Meeting will be December 21, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.**

Betty B. motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Respectively submitted,

Ted B., Secretary

I know some of you have seen these over the years, and you may be tired of seeing them again. I reprint this each year on the chance there might be someone new or fairly new to the program who could benefit from them.

I would also like to take this time to thank you, the Fellowship, for allowing me to be of service for another year. We know I make typos and other mistakes, but your patience with me is a gift I treasure!

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and have a safe, sober Happy New Year!

Betty B., Editor

Twelve Steps for a Sober Holiday Season

1. Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at Central Office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.
2. Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.
3. Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes – postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.
4. Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone new than you are.
5. Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.
6. If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.
7. Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.
8. Worship in your own way.
9. Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.
10. Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember – "one day at a time."
11. Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts – but this year, you can give love.
12. "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

Things We Cannot Change

*Ruby Conway
of Hesperia, CA.*

passed away

December 2, 2013.

with over 39 years of sobriety.

She will be missed.

Ruby answered the hotline for over three years, even when she was sick. Ruby said, "I need to keep carrying the message of service," no matter what. She was loved by many and will be missed.

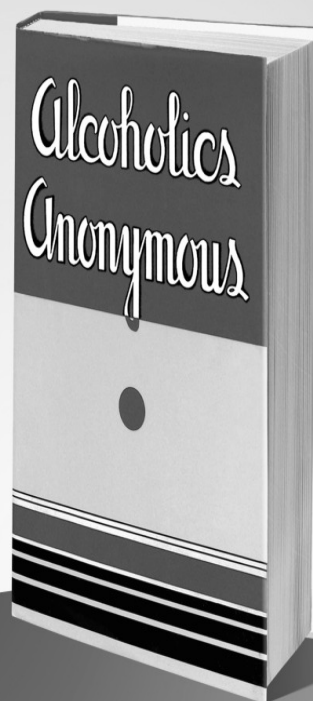
*A memorial service will be held for her in December 29, 2013.
Please call Central Office, 760-242-9292, for the information.*

Announcing the 75th Anniversary edition of the Big Book

A.A. World Services, Inc. is pleased to announce the publication of the only authorized reproduction of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. This new edition will be a faithful replica of the original, with the famous "circus cover" dust jacket and bulky paper (which is why it was initially called the Big Book).

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the historic publication of *Alcoholics Anonymous* in April 1939, the 2013 General Service Conference approved the creation of this facsimile edition of the first printing of the first edition.

Preorders: Starting November 15, 2013 you may preorder copies. Preordered books will be shipped directly to the purchaser and gift orders to the address provided, in April 2014.



Central Office Activities

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Visitors	85	899
Info. Calls	150	1,686
12 Step Calls	1	14
<u>Call Forwarding</u>		
Info. Calls	105	1,091
12 Step Calls	3	29
<u>Totals</u>		
Info Calls	255	1,649
12 Step Calls	3	46
<u>OFFICE</u>		
	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Visitors	81	980
Info. Calls	139	1,825
12 Step Calls	1	15
<u>Call Forwarding</u>		
Info. Calls	130	1,221
12 Step Calls	1	30
<u>Totals</u>		
Info Calls	269	1,918
12 Step Calls	2	48

Upcoming Events

PLEASE CALL CENTRAL OFFICE FOR ANY HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AROUND THE HIGH DESERT.

**Third Saturday of the Month
Intergroup Meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office. Call 760-242-9292 for more information.**

**April 4—5, 2014
The Death Valley Ride for Recovery and Poker Run. There will be more information coming in the future.**

**April 18—20, 2014
11th Annual Spanish Congress in Barstow, CA at the Cora Harper Fitness Center. There will be English participation. Rooms are available at the Ramada Inn, Barstow with special rates. For more information contact Martha or Mary G. at 760-985-7815.**

Central Office News

THEY HAVE ARRIVED JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

**The new Grapevine Books!
Also, your Central Office
is in need of volunteers to fill office shifts and to do after hours call forwarding. If you would like to be of service or know someone who *needs* to be of service, call for all details at 760-242-9292!**

And Finally . . .

A woman went through a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars were demolished, but amazingly neither of them is hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said, "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of wine didn't break. Surely God wants us to drink this wine and celebrate our good fortune." She then hands the bottle to the man.

The man nods his head in agreement, opens it, drinks half the bottle, and then hands it back to the woman. The woman takes the bottle, immediately puts the cap back on, and hands it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah, I think I'll just wait for the police."

Adam ate the apple, too! Men will never learn!

Submitted by, Bert P., Apple Valley, CA

Puzzles

Puzzles

I wasn't sure what you meant by, "Look for the similarities, not the differences," until I thought of it as a puzzle. Each time you share, it's like you hand me a puzzle piece. If I'm honest, open-minded, and willing (HOW a sober life is lived successfully), sometimes the piece fits, sometimes it doesn't. If I look at every piece as one that doesn't fit—claiming that everyone is different and I'm terminally unique—you have nothing to offer me and I add no new pieces to my puzzle. This is when I'm at a meeting rather than in a meeting. When you say something that resonates with me, and occasionally smacks me right between the eyes, I put those pieces in place and more is revealed about who I was, who I am, and who I want to be. This is when I'm in a meeting rather than at a meeting. Today, I believe that God knows those parts of my puzzle that I need to see now and provides the pieces in His time through your sharing.

I believe that working the Steps provides the framework for the puzzle; it puts the straight-edged border pieces in place so I can begin to get a gradual but clear picture of who I am. Since I've worked the Steps twice with two different men, I'm prepared to add new puzzle pieces by regularly attending A.A. meetings. As more and more pieces are revealed through you sharing, the "big picture" of my life—past, present, and future—gradually becomes more complete and clear. My amended past allows me to empathize with your un-amended present; I can relate with you rather than be critical of you; and I'm able to transmit something I've gotten as a result of listening to your experience, strength, and hope.

Without really having an obvious way to measure it, I'd guess that in eight years of actively participating in Alcoholics Anonymous, about eight percent of my puzzle is complete. It's clear evidence of "progress, not perfection" and a good reason to "keep coming back." Not to worry, through faith, I believe that God knows those parts of my life that I need to see right now, and will put the right people (you) in my life to reveal to me what I need to know as I continue to grow. I'm fifty-four years old now and don't have ninety-two more years to see the whole picture. But there is one who knows all, that one is God, may He show me through you what I need to know now.

Ed L., Wrightwood, CA

Well, folks, another year is quickly wrapping itself up. Before we know what hit us, 2014 will be here in all its glory, good times, bad times, indifferent times, and sober times.

Maybe now would be a good time to look a little into the future (I know, I know, "one day at a time.") and make some plans on how you can be of service in your A.A. community in the High Desert.

Is there a meeting you attend that needs someone to make the coffee or help set up the tables? If you are a Secretary of a meeting do you make an effort to arrive a half hour early just in case a new one is waiting for the door to get unlocked?

If you are an oldtimer do you still attend meetings? I often share, "The newcomers are an important part of our fellowship, but what would happen if we had a meeting and nobody with time showed up." I don't believe for a moment that if the oldtimers hadn't been there when I was getting sober, I would have gotten sober.

If you have some free time on your hands during the week would it be possible for you to volunteer at Central Office for 3 hours a week? Or, how about answering the phones from you home after hours?

How about this? How many meetings do not have an Intergroup Rep. to represent them at our monthly Intergroup meetings? Are there decisions being made by the group conscience of only a few A.A. members?

These are only a few examples of service; there are many. Please look at some of these suggestions, and see if you could help out in any way to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to those whose hands are outstretched, waiting, for one of us to take a hold of.