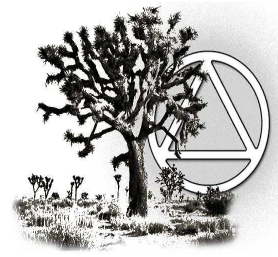


Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.
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I Am Responsible

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

Forgiveness

I was sober only six months, standing over my biological father's grave with my adopted father, his younger brother, there beside me. I was a long way from my present home in Wrightwood, California there in the cemetery of my childhood home in Roanoke, Virginia, but that's where following good orderly direction had led me. You see, my father had died back in 1988 and there on that cold overcast day in November 2005, I was working AA's Ninth Step by making amends to my dead father. He'd led a less-than-exemplary life, having been arrested for lack of child-support when my mother, his wife, had died and was buried on her 50th birthday back in 1970. But then, so had I led a life that, to this day, only my sponsors and I are fully aware of, thank God! Seventeen years had elapsed since my father had died and I was six months sober, so how could I possibly make amends to someone dead almost two decades?

Troy B., my first sponsor, answered, "Simple but not easy!" I was to write a three-part letter. In the first part, I would forgive him. In the second part, I would ask his forgiveness. And, in the third part, I was to describe how my life would change as a result of all this forgiveness. I don't understand this present-life or the after-life well enough to know how the first two parts worked, although I did what I was asked to do in simple faith. It's the third part that I better understand, now having exercised it over the past five years.

After 30 years of hating the man who had seemingly caused us so much harm, it came natural for me to bad-mouth him to anyone who would listen (and some who wouldn't). Thirty years of habitually thinking he was the source of all my woes didn't disappear overnight. That's the beauty of the third part of the letter! For, in that part, I wrote I no longer have the right to denigrate someone whom I've forgiven! I can no longer dwell on my father's poor behavior, which I've come to understand is, itself, poor behavior. I've learned that bad-mouthing is preceded by bad-minding.

(Continued on page 2)

Thanks to the People with Time

When I stumbled into my first meeting it was the people with time (TIME = This I Must Earn) who reached out, welcomed me, and "loved me til I could love myself." Your stories made me cry and laugh and keep coming back. You asked me how I was doing and took time out to listen to my answer. You taught me how to work the Steps. You didn't judge me harshly when I refused your help. You helped me learn the language of the heart. You made it safe for me to share when you told me how scared you were to share. You showed me how to pray and meditate and find a Higher Power. You gave me a new and beautiful life in place of a bottle (and some outside issues). You were there even when you didn't notice I was noticing you. You made a difference in my life. Some people say, "Don't quit before the miracle." Thank you for not quitting even after the miracle of your recovery.

From a grateful sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous.
Via, The Desert Lifeline, Cathedral City, CA

Minutes of the Intergroup Meeting 17 August 13

The meeting was opened at 9:34 a.m. by Doug H., who led us in the Serenity Prayer. Chad F. read the Twelve Traditions. In attendance were: Craig B., Betty B., Doug H., Julie F., Helen M., Ted B., and Bill P. [Also in attendance were Martha and Mary from the Spanish Intergroup.]

Ted B. read the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Chad F. gave the report. As of August 31, 2013, there was a balance of \$7,799.22 in savings, \$7,099.53 in the C.D., and \$5,800.91 in checking. Income for the month of August was \$3,193.73, with total expenses being \$2,634.49. This came to a positive balance of \$558.24

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When my mind wanders back to the familiar opening of that deep, dark cave I'd excavated over those 30 years, I remind myself about the third part of that letter, and my living amends. And, I'm able to turn away from that strangely inviting, dark resentment; much like Victor E. habitually turns away from that yawning black-hole of a barroom door that unerringly and unsuccessfully invites him in time and time again for a drink.

Ed L., Wrightwood, CA

More Financial News

FAITHFUL FIVERS

James L.	\$5.00
Anonymous	\$5.00

See page 5 for the completer financial statement.

Central Office Activities

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>Y.T.D.</u>
Visitors	89	814
Info. Calls	166	1,531
12 Step Calls	0	13
<u>Call Forwarding</u>		
Info. Calls	136	986
12 Step Calls	2	26
<u>Totals</u>		
Info Calls	302	1,649
12 Step Calls	2	43

Central Office News

COMING SOON!

New Grapevine Books!

Information will be published as soon as we get them.

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!

(Continued from page 1)

before literature. July literature sales were \$1,075.74, but literature purchases were \$1,297.09. Literature sales for August were therefore <\$221.35>. The net August income was \$336.89. In August 23 people contributed \$909.00 to P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved. Craig B. noted that he had a \$35.00 check that should be added to the August donations. He would give the check to Chad F. to be incorporated into the August donation totals.

Office Manager's Report: Craig B. reported that there were 87 visitors to Central Office in August. There were 195 information calls with three 12 Step calls. There were 137 Call Forwarding calls with nine 12 Step calls. The totals for August were 352 information calls and twelve 12 Step calls. The Sunday call forwarding shift has been filled. However, there is a need to train alternates for Central Office. Please announce this need at your meetings of this need. If someone is interested they should call Craig B. at Central Office. There is also a need for people on the Central Office 12 Step list. Craig was reimbursed \$130.00 for the money he spent for the [Office Managers' Seminar in Rancho Mirage].

Old Business: {This old business was brought up in the Board of Directors meeting}. Craig B. stated that Central Office needs to pursue sending the Newsletter out via E-mail to save money. This business was tabled to the next meeting.

New Business: Representatives (Mary G. and Martha) for the 11th Inland Empire Congress for Spanish Speaking A.A. outlined the "Roundup" that will be held in Barstow, CA on April 18—20, 2014. More information will be forthcoming. At this time they wanted Central Office to be aware of the event. Also, they were seeking English speaking speakers that they may add to the event. Mary and Martha will work closely with Central Office over the next several months. Craig B. is looking for new vendors, especially in regards to medallions. The current vendor, Bright Star, is raising rates on prices and shipping. If no new vendors are found, Central Office will have to raise the price of the medallions. Craig also noted that additional literature will have to be purchased by the end of September. The Barstow Desert Group has closed. There is a new meeting at the Alano Club. It will be a one hour meeting between 12:00—1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. It will be an Open Discussion Closed Meeting. Court cards will not be signed. There is a new (Big Book Study) meeting in Wrightwood, 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. There will be an A.A. "Celebration of Love" in Lucerne Valley on October 5th and 6th. Craig needs a volunteer to call the [Victor Valley] Daily Press to run a free ad in their "Neighbors" Section regarding daily A.A. meetings. Bill B. volunteered for this task. Thanks to Craig B. for the new Central Office sign.

The next Intergroup meeting will be October 19, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. at Central Office.

Helen M. motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted B., Secretary

Upcoming Events

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

November 1, 2013

**5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m., Spaghetti Dinner/Fund
Raiser for Central Office at the Victor Valley
Alano Club, 11085 Central Rd., in Apple Valley.
At 7:30 p.m. will be a Speaker Meeting. All pro-
ceeds will go to help C.O. Ticket are \$7.00 at the
door.**

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.**

Meeting Directory Changes

NEW ADDRESS

Barstow Desert Group has moved. Their new address
is:

400 E. Fredericks, Suite A.

NEW MEETINGS

APPLE VALLEY

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Nuts and Fruits (G/L), 20340 Zuni
Rd, Apt. B

Wednesday, 12:00 p.m., Keep It Simple, (AV1). This
is a closed meeting and court cards will NOT be
signed.

BARSTOW

Monday, 5:00 p.m., Men's Meeting at the Vets' Home,
Bldg. F.

Monday, 6:00 p.m., 12 X 12, 800 Yucca (Free Church).

VICTORVILLE

10:00 a.m., Saturday Victorville Steppers, 13230 El
Evado Rd., Holy Innocents Church.

WRIGHTWOOD

Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Big Book Study, 5996 Cedar,
by the Firehouse.

DELETE

ADELANTO

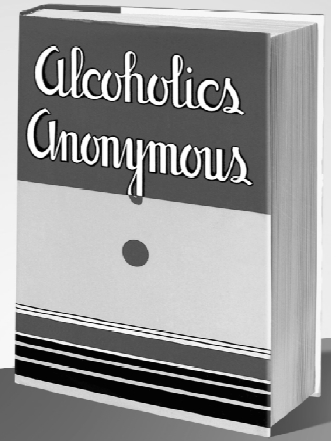
Wednesday, 5:00 p.m., Step Study, (AD). It has moved
to Victorville on Saturday (See above).

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.



And Finally . . .

A store that sells new husbands has opened in Melbourne,
where a woman may go to choose a husband. Among the in-
structions at the entrance is a description of how the store oper-
ates:

You may visit this store only once. There are six floors and
the value of the products increase as the shopper ascends the
flights. The shopper may choose any item from a particular
floor or may choose to go up to the next floor, but you cannot go
back down except to exit the building!

So, a woman goes to the Husband Store to find a husband. On
the first floor the sign on the door reads: Floor 1—These men
have jobs.

She is intrigued but continues to the second floor where the
sign reads: Floor 2—These men have jobs and love kids.
“That’s nice,” she thinks, “but I want more.”

So, she continues upward. The third floor sign reads: Floor
3—These men have jobs, love kids, and are extremely good
looking. “Wow,” she thinks, but she feels compelled to keep
going.

She goes to the fourth floor and the sign reads: Floor 4—These
men have jobs, love kids, are drop-dead good looking and help
with housework. “Oh, mercy me!” she exclaims, “I can hardly
stand it!”

Still, she goes to the fifth floor and the sign reads: Floor 5—
These men have jobs, love kids, are drop-dead gorgeous, help
with housework, and have a strong romantic streak.

She is tempted to stay, but she goes to the sixth floor where the
sign reads: Floor 6—You are visitor 31,456,012 to this floor.
There are no men on this floor. This floor exists solely as proof
that women are impossible to please. Thank you for shopping at
the Husband Store.

Please note: To avoid gender bias charges, the store’s opened a
New Wives store just across the street.

The first floor has wives that love sex.

The second floor has wives that love sex, have money, and like
beer.

The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth floors have never been vis-
ited.

Submitted by Bert P., Apple Valley, CA