

NEWSLETTER for the Fellowship

SEPT 2016

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We SURRENDER TO WIN

*Only after we have come to the end of our rope, hit a stone wall in some aspect of our lives beyond which we can go no further; only when we hit "bottom" in despair and surrender, can we accomplish sobriety which we could never accomplish before.
We must, and we do, surrender in order to win.*

From "THE PROFESSOR AND THE PARADOX"
page 341 of the Second Edition of the book, Alcoholics Anonymous

Step Nine

"Made direct amends to people whenever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

"GOOD judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage, and prudence - these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step Nine."

Our Twelve and Twelve book tells us to make a list of those we have harmed, reflect on it carefully, try to gather the right attitude. If we do we should see our amends divided into several classes. Those that we ought to deal with as soon as we are sure we can maintain our sobriety. Those to whom we are only able to make partial restitution, lest we do them and others more harm than good. Others still that should be held off on. And those where it is now not possible to make direct contact with.

Sometimes we don't know it but we actually begin making amends when we first enter the program. As soon as our family knows that we are making an honest effort, we have begun. Sometimes we are throw caution to the wind and want to yell from the rooftops that we have found a new way.

Our book goes on to guide us that "... it is necessary only that we make a general admission of our defects. It may be unwise at this stage to rehash certain harrowing episodes. Good judgment will suggest that we ought to take our time." It adds that we can not buy our peace of mind at others' expense.

The same advice is given for our workplace. We may even need to use a little more discretion than we did with the family. Perhaps hold off for a while. We must be "... reasonably certain that we are on the A. A. beam." Only then are we ready to tell them about A. A. Once we are in this place we will be ready to share with them the harm we have done and begin to make our amends. It may be easy to think that if we can muster the courage to approach these people they may lash out at us. But our book reassures that... "Even our severest and most justified critics will frequently meet us more than halfway on the first trail."

We are warned not to think our work is done once we have completed our first steps at amends. We must not give in to the temptation that we don't need to go further and do the amends that may be harder or have a greater risk of not being taken so well. Excuses, procrastination and just plain wrong self talk may convince us that we need to wait when we really need to move forward. The book goes on to give an example of not going into too great a detail in, say in an extramarital affair, with an unsuspecting spouse. There are most likely going to be third parties involved and dragging the details of their part in the affair may cause that third person far greater harm than any relief we may gain.

"Many razor-edged questions can arise in other departments of life where the same principle is involved." If your telling your boss that you have not been forthright with the company's money may jeopardize your employment and thus your family's welfare you may be best advised to discuss this, at length, with your sponsor before you carry out this plan.

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"Above all, we should try to be absolutely sure that we are not delaying because we are afraid. For the readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine."

Submitted by Scott J., Apple Valley

THE TWELVE STEPS

1. I can't
2. God can
3. Let God
4. Look within
5. Admit wrongs
6. Ready self for change
7. Seek God's help
8. Become willing
9. Make amends
10. Daily inventory
11. Pray and meditate
12. Give it away

The 12 Steps Simplified
Taken from The Coleman Institute
<http://blog.thecolemaninstitute.com/2013/02/the-12-steps-simplified.html>

speed chase or turns himself in on a warrant. You may even think of the international symbol of surrender when you hear the word –the waving of a white flag. When a person waves a white flag in a combat situation, he or she is indicating they have accepted defeat and are ready to surrender their position. None of these examples casts the notion of surrender in a good light, so it's no wonder alcoholics resist this concept when they begin working a program! Let's take another look at what it means to surrender.

Yes, surrender does mean, quite literally, "to give up." In the context of battle, giving up brings about negative consequences and may even change the course of history. But, in the context of your fight to stay sober, surrender can only benefit you. It will help change your attitudes, behaviors and outlook, not to mention improve your relationships with others. It will also allow you to live a much more God-focused life, which allows you to live in the moment instead of trying to control the outcome.

At the most basic level, you must first surrender your alcohol problem if you want to be successful in recovery. For many, this first attempt at surrender is quite easy. After months of trying to keep it all together, in spite of the overwhelming evidence that drug addiction and/or alcoholism had taken complete control, giving up can be a liberating experience.

When you acknowledge that self-will has run riot and your life is in shambles, you really have no other option than that of unconditional surrender. After fighting to be victorious over the bottle, the pipe or the needle, you come to understand that the only way to win is to surrender. If you want to get your life back on track, you have to give up the idea that you are in control and that by some miracle, you can pull it all together. By finally saying to your addiction, "Okay, you win. I am powerless over you. I give up trying to prove to myself that I can beat you at your own game," you win.

Putting an end to your alcohol abuse and admitting powerlessness means you no longer walk your path alone and bear your burdens in secret.

You will arrive at many places that require surrender. You may have to surrender your addiction to caffeine, an unhealthy relationship or a job that is causing you problems. More importantly –and this happens on a moment-to-moment basis –what you must learn to surrender is your own will. This means you must learn to take your hands off the steering wheel of your life and give control to your Higher Power. This allows you to surrender your perceived power and allow God to work out the details of your life in a very powerful way. Learning to surrender is no small task. Talk to your sponsor about the power of surrender and how you can learn to partake of this spiritual practice. Make a commitment, just for today, that you will give up the fight and surrender to win.



Surrender and Win



The word "surrender" often has negative connotations, but is not interpreted this way in A.A. The below article revisits the concept of surrendering to win and its importance in the recovery process. The text is taken from The Discovery House Blog: The Power of Surrender, available also at: <http://www.thediscoveryhouse.com/05/18/2013/the-power-of-surrender/> (May 18, 2013)

Surrender is a word often used in 12 step programs like A.A. In fact, "surrender to win" is one of the most common expressions heard in the rooms of recovery and it is applied to a number of different life situations. But what does it really mean to surrender? And how can surrender be associated with winning? After all, to surrender means to give up. Is it really possible to win something when you have given up the fight?

Surrender is something many recovering people struggle with. For starters, the word conjures images of prisoners of war putting their hands in the air to white flag surrender to an enemy. Many associate surrender with law enforcement –like when a man gives himself up to the police after a high

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AS OF AUG 30, 2016

| | AUGUST | BALANCE |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Savings | \$ 500.00 | \$ 19,024.49 |
| C.D. | \$ 2.55 | \$ 10,007.57 |
| Cash in Union Checking | | \$ 2,794.31 |
| INCOME | AUGUST | Y.T.D. |
| Group Donations | \$ 1,592.22 | \$ 9,623.67 |
| Birthdays | \$ 60.00 | \$ 266.00 |
| Memorials | \$ - | \$ 23.00 |
| P.Y.M.W.Y.M.I. (12 members) | \$ 282.00 | \$ 3,529.00 |
| Newsletter | \$ - | \$ 10.00 |
| Chips and Medallions | \$ 861.08 | \$ 5,483.43 |
| Coffee Kitty | \$ - | \$ 147.10 |
| Buck of the Month | \$ - | \$ 29.93 |
| Ride for Recovery | \$ - | \$ 4,639.50 |
| AA Mountain Conference | \$ - | \$ 300.00 |
| Faithful Fivers | \$ 60.00 | \$ 80.00 |
| Women's Banquet | \$ 300.00 | \$ 300.00 |
| 2016 Convention | \$ - | \$ 655.00 |
| Intergroup 7th Tradition | \$ - | \$ 125.10 |
| INCOME FOR THE MONTH | \$ 3,155.30 | \$ 25,211.73 |
| EXPENSES | | Y.T.D. |
| Rent | \$ 360.00 | \$ 2,880.00 |
| C.A.M. Charges | \$ 116.28 | \$ 1,006.20 |
| Utilities | \$ 108.73 | \$ 649.02 |
| Manager Salary | \$ 1,027.28 | \$ 8,218.24 |
| Charter | \$ 12.67 | \$ 675.74 |
| Printing | \$ 120.00 | \$ 518.88 |
| Security/Maintenance/Office | \$ 278.03 | \$ 1,875.00 |
| Chips and Medallions | \$ 218.69 | \$ 3,245.52 |
| 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 | \$ 26.48 | \$ 188.42 |
| Alarm | \$ - | \$ 192.00 |
| Ride For Recovery | \$ - | \$ 635.00 |
| Stamps | \$ - | \$ 196.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 2,268.16 | \$ 25,058.47 |
| INCOME BEFORE LITERATURE | \$ 887.14 | \$ 153.26 |
| LITERATURE | | |
| Sales | \$ 1,062.04 | \$ 8,329.40 |
| Purchases | \$ 963.88 | \$ 5,911.08 |
| Total Literature | \$ 98.16 | \$ 2,418.32 |
| NET INCOME | \$ 985.30 | \$ 2,571.58 |
| APPLE VALLEY | | |
| Anonymous Group | \$ 148.00 | \$ 1,002.22 |
| Keep it Simple | \$ - | \$ 253.00 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Sunday Coffee Kitty | \$ - | \$ 42.00 |
| There is a Solution | \$ - | \$ 222.00 |
| Mon. 5 p.m. Open Participation | \$ - | \$ 45.00 |
| Wed. Womens Participation | \$ - | \$ 110.00 |
| How It Works | \$ 45.00 | \$ 421.58 |
| Simple Changes | \$ 100.00 | \$ 175.00 |
| Children of Chaos | \$ - | \$ 412.57 |
| Questions & Answers | \$ - | \$ 30.00 |
| Front & Center | \$ 216.22 | \$ 931.22 |
| Saturday Speaker Meeting | \$ 208.00 | \$ 458.00 |
| T.G.I.F. | \$ - | \$ 55.82 |
| Friday Nite Lites | \$ - | \$ 160.00 |
| Monday Back to Basics | \$ 50.00 | \$ 155.00 |
| Cedar Street Big Book | \$ 30.00 | \$ 70.00 |
| Original Big Book | \$ 40.00 | \$ 94.15 |
| Womens 12 X 12/ Big Bk. | \$ 60.00 | \$ 246.16 |
| Sun. Just for Today | \$ 80.00 | \$ 80.00 |
| 7 P.M. Monday Big Book | \$ 25.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| Primary Purpose | \$ 60.00 | \$ 120.00 |
| Sunday Night Campfire | \$ - | \$ 72.00 |

Barstow

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Los Coyotes Mens Group | \$ 100.00 | \$ 604.00 |
| Friday Nite Live | \$ - | \$ 800.00 |
| Happy Hour- Vets Home | \$ 120.00 | \$ 230.00 |
| Our Primary Purpose | \$ - | \$ 75.00 |
| Into Action | \$ 200.00 | \$ 200.00 |

Ft. Irwin

| | | |
|-----------------|------|----------|
| New Horizons II | \$ - | \$ 52.95 |
|-----------------|------|----------|

HESPERIA

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|----------------|------|-------------|
| Back to Basics | \$ - | \$ 1,391.00 |
|----------------|------|-------------|

LUCERNE VALLEY

| | | |
|-----------|------|----------|
| The Place | \$ - | \$ 20.00 |
|-----------|------|----------|

Newberry Springs

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|-----------------------|------|-----------|
| Thurs. Big Book Study | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| Sat Breakfast Club | \$ - | \$ 90.00 |

Phelan

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|
| Thurs. Big Book | \$ - | \$ 90.00 |
| Phelan Sober Group | \$ 60.00 | \$ 120.00 |

Silver Lakes

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|------------------------|------|-----------|
| No Valid Complaints | \$ - | \$ 130.00 |
| 4th Dimension Big Book | \$ - | \$ 50.00 |
| Sat. Night Serenity | \$ - | \$ 90.00 |

VICTORVILLE

| | | |
|------------------------|------|-----------|
| Friday Speaker Meeting | \$ - | \$ 80.00 |
| Little House | \$ - | \$ 40.00 |
| As Bill sees it | \$ - | \$ 160.00 |
| Tumbleweed Group | \$ - | \$ 10.00 |

Financials continued from page 3

Wrightwood

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

Faithful Fivers

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Geoffrey C | \$34.00 |
|------------|---------|

Happy Birthday To:

| | | |
|------------|----|-------|
| Geoffrey C | \$ | 34.00 |
| Betty B | \$ | 26.00 |

| CENTRAL OFFICE STATISTICS | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|
| | August | YTD |
| Visitors | 111 | 804 |
| Information Calls | 162 | 1243 |
| 12-Step Calls | 3 | 10 |
| CALL FORWARDNG | | |
| Information Calls | 114 | 923 |
| 12 Step Calls | 0 | 15 |
| TOTALS | | |
| Information Calls | 276 | 2166 |
| 12 Step Calls | 3 | 25 |

Intergroup Minutes September 17th, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Helen M. at 9:30 AM Sat. 9-16-16. Patrick C. lead in the opening prayer. Present were Craig B., Doug H., Ted B., Randy M., Scott C., Helen M., Chad F., Patrick C., Jennifer C., and Bill P..

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurers report was read by Chad F. As of Aug. 30th of 2016 we had \$19,024 .49 in savings, \$10,007.57 in C.D. and \$2,794 in checking. Total income was for the month was \$3,155.30. Expenses for Aug. were \$2,268.16 which gave us a net income before literature of \$887.14. Literature sales were \$1,062.04 and purchases were \$963.88 which gave us a net income of \$985.30.

Office Manager’s Report: Craig B. reported the central office had 162 info calls. all forwarding had 114 info calls and 3 12 step calls which is a total of 276 info calls and 3 12 step calls. Craig also reported that all volunteer positions are filled for Central Office and Call Forwarding are filled.

H and I Report: Patrick C. reported that the H&I Round-up will be on Sept. 24th at the Victor Valley Alano Club at 11:00 am.

Old Business: Craig B. stated we are still looking for a Ways and Means Chairman for Intergroup. Anyone interested please call the Central Office at [760-242-9292](tel:760-242-9292).

New Business: Patrick C. announced that the Celebration of Love will be held at the Lucerne Valley Senior Center on Oct. 8th & 9th.

Meeting was closed at 9:45 am by Helen M. Carl O. lead us in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Bill P., Secretary.

Upcoming Events

The Celebration with Love in Lucerne Valley

October 8th and 9th
(Saturday and Sunday)
Senior Center (Right behind the library on Allen Way)

Breakfast will be served on both days at 8am
(\$5.00 donation).

Lunch will be served at noon (\$7.00 donation). Saturday evening at 8:45 we will have a FREE ice cream social and Sunday evening there will be a potluck at 5pm. There will be several great speakers and a 50/50 drawing.

For more information call Melody at 760 596 2476

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